



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
SERVICE LEAFLET

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 11, 2018

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany/Transfiguration

---

\* PSALM OF THE DAY                      Psalm 50:1–6 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: The God of gods has spoken; God has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**P: Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God is revealed in glory.**

L: O God, you will come and will not keep silence; before you there is a consuming flame, and round about you a raging storm.

**P: You call the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of your people.**

L: “Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

**P: Let the heavens declare the rightness of your cause, for you alone are judge.**

THE FIRST READING                      2 Kings 2:1–12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.” Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

THE SECOND READING      Mark 9:2–9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Messiah had risen from the dead.

HOMILY

“Light Breaking Forth”

Rev. Corzine

MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated checks go to **Back Bay Mission**, founded in 1922 as an outreach effort of the First Evangelical Church of Biloxi, Mississippi (later UCC), whose members responded with compassion and service to the needs of the poor living in deplorable conditions along the Back Bay of Biloxi. Since then, Back Bay Mission has continually grown its services and ministries, always keeping the impoverished and marginalized at the center of its concern. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 179

We yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

*Passion Chorale*

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *celebrant*

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *preacher*

Nancy Livingston, *pianist*

Jennifer Okezie-Watts, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Liturgist: Gary Leidheiser

Communion Preparation:

Refreshments: