



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 16, 2020

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 119:1–8 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.

P: Happy are those who keep God's decrees, who seek God with their whole heart,

L: who also do no wrong, but walk in God's ways.

P: You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

L: O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

P: Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

L: I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

P: I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR LINCOLN ROSE SCHMITT

WELCOME

Leader: ... But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

L: ... and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

P: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

L: ... to the one about to be baptized, as Lincoln lives and grows in Christ?

P: We promise our love, support and care.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: ... in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

P: I believe in God.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

P: I believe in Jesus Christ.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

P: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER OF BAPTISM

L: Christ be with you

P: And also with you.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

L: ... this newest member of the body of Christ.

P: Give to Lincoln strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Deuteronomy 30:15–20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

THE SECOND READING Matthew 5:21–37

Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. “Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

HOMILY

“The Choices We Make”

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Elisha Hardekopf

Cash and designated checks go to **BREAD**. BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, And Dignity) is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 23-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and gathering the power of people in nearly 40 congregations to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. BREAD rises! Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 370

What Gift Can We Bring?

Anniversary Song

Want to give online? Please see the Depart to Serve insert for more information and a QR link.

WORSHIP LEADERS

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

Marti Rideout, *pianist*

Nate and Donna Vogt, *liturgists*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Liturgist: PLEASE SIGN UP

Communion Preparation and Refreshments: Nicole Moss