



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
SERVICE LEAFLET

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 18, 2018

The First Sunday in Lent

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\* PSALM OF THE DAY      Psalm 25:1–10 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: To you, O God, I lift up my soul.

**P: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

L: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**P: Show me your ways, O God, and teach me your paths.**

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

**P: Remember, O God, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

L: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O God.

**P: Gracious and upright are you; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

L: You guide the humble in doing right and teach your way to the lowly.

**P: All your paths are love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

THE FIRST READING      Genesis 9:8–17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

THE SECOND READING      Mark 1:9–15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

HOMILY

“Temptation: Being Unforgiving”  
(Part two of the eight-part Lenten sermon series, *Forgiveness*)

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Deep Griha**. Deep Griha, meaning “Light House,” is an independent charitable organization that has been working to better the lives of people living in the slums in Pune, India. Since work began in 1975, Deep Griha has helped thousands of people through a range of education, self-help, nutrition and health programs. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 205

Forty Days and Forty Nights

*Heinlein*

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *celebrant*  
The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher*  
Tom Stewart, *pianist*  
Gary Leidheiser, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Liturgist: Geoff Dean

Communion Preparation:

Refreshments: