



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
SERVICE LEAFLET

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 24, 2019

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

\* PSALM OF THE DAY                      Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,

**P: for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.**

L: Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

**P: Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

L: Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

**P: He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

L: Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.

**P: Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.**

L: For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

**P: Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place,  
they will not be there.**

L: But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

**P: The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

L: The LORD helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,

**P: because they take refuge in him.**

THE FIRST READING                      Genesis 45:3–11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

THE SECOND READING      Luke 6:27–38

Jesus said, “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

HOMILY

“How Do You Love Your Enemy?”

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Ashlesha Onawalee

Cash and designated checks go to **Deep Griha Scholarships**. Deep Griha, in Pune, India, a mission partner with First Church, is a charitable organization working to improve the lives of people living in the slums of Pune. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 170

Your Ways Are Not Our Own

*Schumann*

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WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *celebrant*

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

Tom Stewart, *pianist*

Nicole Moss, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Liturgist: Jennifer Provenzano

Communion Preparation and Refreshments: Cori Rowley