



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
SERVICE LEAFLET

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 1, 2020

The First Sunday in Lent

\* PSALM OF THE DAY                      Psalm 32 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**P: Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

L: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**P: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

L: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**P: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress,  
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

L: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**P: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

L: Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
else it will not stay near you.

**P: Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.**

L: Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,

**P: and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

THE FIRST READING                      Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1–7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

THE SECOND READING          Matthew 4:1–11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

HOMILY

“What is the Bible and How Do We Read It?”

Rev. Ahrens

(Second in the nine-part series: *Christianity 101: Essential Questions of Christian Faith  
A Lenten/Easter Journey*)

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **UCC Disaster Ministries–Puerto Rico Earthquake Recovery**. The United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries has partnered with the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR) to assist with continued recovery response following the late December 2019 earthquake and aftershocks. This offering will go directly to support food, shelter, and hygiene kits. The Disaster Ministries had issued an emergency appeal to congregations to continue to assist the people of the island with the goal of \$250,000. This is our church’s ongoing effort to support the mission of the larger church. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 205

Forty Days and Forty Nights

*Heinlein*

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *celebrant*

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

Marti Rideout, *pianist*

Kelly Dodd, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Liturgist: Elisha Hardekopf

Communion Preparation: PLEASE SIGN UP

Refreshments: PLEASE SIGN UP