



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 4, 2018

The Third Sunday in Lent

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 19 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: The heavens declare your glory, O God, and the firmament shows your handiwork.

P: One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

L: Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

P: Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.

L: In the deep you have set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

P: It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

L: Your law, O God, is perfect and revives the soul; your testimony is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

P: Your statutes are just and rejoice the heart; your commandment is clear and gives light to the eyes.

L: The fear of you is clean and endures for ever; your judgments are true and righteous altogether.

P: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold; sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

L: By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

P: Who can tell how often one offends? Cleanse me from the secret faults.

L: Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

P: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O God, my strength and my redeemer.

THE FIRST READING Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses God's name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

THE SECOND READING John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

HOMILY

"Tearing Down: An Inventory for Forgiving Hearts"

Rev. Ahrens

(Part four in the eight-part Lenten sermon series, *Forgiveness*)

MISSION INVITATION

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 184

O Wondrous sight

Deo Gracias

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *celebrant*

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

Tom Stewart, *pianist*

Joe Baszynski, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Liturgist:

Communion Preparation:

Refreshments: