



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 8, 2020

The Second Sunday in Lent

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 121 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

P: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

L: God will not let your foot be moved; the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

P: Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

L: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

P: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

L: The LORD will keep you from all evil; and is the One who shall keep you safe.

P: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

THE FIRST READING Genesis 12:1–4a

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

THE SECOND READING John 3:1–17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

HOMILY

“What Do Christians Believe: About the Trinity?”
(Third in the nine-part series: *Christianity 101: Essential Questions of Christian Faith
A Lenten/Easter Journey*)

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Back Bay Mission**, founded in 1922 as an outreach effort of the First Evangelical Church of Biloxi, Mississippi (later UCC), whose members responded with compassion and service to the needs of the poor living in deplorable conditions along the Back Bay of Biloxi. Since then, Back Bay Mission has continually grown its services and ministries, always keeping the impoverished and marginalized at the center of its concern. Thank you for your generosity.

Rev. Corzine

OFFERTORY HYMN 24

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

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*

Tom Stewart, *pianist*

Elisha Hardekopf, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Liturgist: PLEASE SIGN UP

Communion Preparation: PLEASE SIGN UP

Refreshments: Ghose Family