



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 10, 2019

The First Sunday in Lent

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

P: will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”

L: Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,

P: no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

L: For God will command the angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

P: On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

L: You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

P: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

L: When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

P: With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

THE FIRST READING Deuteronomy 26:1–11

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

THE SECOND READING Luke 4:1–13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

HOMILY

“Lesson Two: Pray Steadfastly in the Face of Temptation”
(Second in the nine-part series: *Life Lessons from Luke*)

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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A Lenten Prayer

Robert J. Powell

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

Lord, I ask a blessing
For my soul today;
Give me peace from heaven
As I kneel and pray.
Forty days did Jesus
Face temptation strong;
Give me strength to conquer
Knowing right from wrong.

Lord, I ask a blessing
For my soul today;
Give me peace from heaven
As I kneel and pray.
I would be like Jesus
turning from all sin,
With His love to keep me
True and faithful within.

Lord, I ask a blessing
For my soul today;
Give me peace from heaven
As I kneel and pray.
When I look to Jesus,
He will show the way;
Help me come to meet Him
Pure on Easter Day.
—Billie Echols

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *celebrant*

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

Tom Stewart, *pianist*

Joe Baszynski, *liturgist*

The Jubilate Choir, Sandra Mathias, *director*

Brianna Burkett, *flutist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Liturgist: Laurie Maynell

Communion Preparation: The Prendergast Family

Refreshments: Teresa Polo