



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 11, 2018

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: We give you thanks, O God, for you are good; your mercy endures for ever.

P: Let all those whom you have redeemed proclaim that you redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

L: You gathered them out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

P: Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; they were afflicted because of their sins.

L: They abhorred all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

P: Then they cried to you in their trouble, and you delivered them from their distress.

L: You sent forth your word and healed them, and saved them from the grave.

P: Let them give thanks to you for your mercy and the wonders you do for your children.

L: Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

P: and tell of your acts with shouts of joy.

THE FIRST READING Numbers 21:4–9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

THE SECOND READING John 3:14–21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Messiah 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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

HOMILY

“Thanks For Saying Something”

Rev. Corzine

(Part five of the eight-part Lenten sermon series, *Forgiveness*)

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Kaleidoscope Youth Center** that works with young people in Central Ohio to create safe and empowering environments for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth through advocacy, education and support. Thank you for your generosity.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN 193

In the cross of Christ I glory

Rathbun

WORSHIP LEADERS

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

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *preacher*

Nancy Livingston, *pianist*

Laurie Maynell, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Liturgist: Peter Murray

Communion Preparation: Kris Brant

Refreshments: Lee Kiesel