



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
SERVICE LEAFLET

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 18, 2018

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

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\* PSALM OF THE DAY          Psalm 51:1–12 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**P: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

L: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**P: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement.**

L: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**P: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

L: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be pure.

**P: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

L: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**P: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

L: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**P: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

THE FIRST READING          Jeremiah 31:31–34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the LORD’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

THE SECOND READING      John 12:20–33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

HOMILY

“A Forgiving Life: Offered to God”

Rev. Ahrens

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

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to the **2018 Youth Mission Trip**. The trip is scheduled for June 3 to June 8. The Youth will work in conjunction with the Gladden Community House and their Senior Referral Program to serve senior residents of West Franklinton. The youth will be making basic home repairs including painting, gardening, and cleaning. They will be housed during the week in a local retreat center and will assist with their meals during the week. The week will also include visits to the homeless camps in Franklin County and a night tour of the homeless under the auspices of the Columbus Coalition for Homelessness. Thank you for your generosity.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN 222

My song is love unknown

*Rhosymedre*

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *celebrant*  
The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher*  
Tom Stewart, *pianist*  
Peter Murray, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 25

Communion will not be celebrated next Sunday, Palm/Passion Sunday

The Passion eading concludes the service

Refreshments: The Vogt Family