



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 24, 2019

The Third Sunday in Lent

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 63:1–8 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

P: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

L: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

P: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

L: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

P: when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

L: for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

P: My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 55:1–9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

THE SECOND READING Luke 13:1–9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

HOMILY

“Lesson Four: Bear the Fruit of Repentance”
(Fourth in the nine-part series: *Life Lessons from Luke*)

Rev. Corzine

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Youth Mission Trip**. From June 3 to 8, First Church Youth will serve the inner city homeless of New York City. Working in conjunction with Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP), a Quaker organization identified and recommended by the U.C.C., participants will learn about the lives of those most neglected by our society and the issues facing our community today. Each day, teams travel on foot or by public transportation to work with service agencies across the city who serve the needs of low income, homeless, and hungry communities. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 586

Come to Tend God's Garden

King's Weston

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

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

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *preacher*

Marti Rideout, *pianist*

The Rev. Rachael Gardner Purdy, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 31

Liturgist: Peter Murray

Communion Preparation and Refreshments: Antoinette Beynen