



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 15, 2018

The Third Sunday of Easter

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 4 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

P: How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

L: But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself; the LORD hears when I call.

P: When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

L: Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

P: There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

L: You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

P: I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

THE FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 3:12–19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified God's servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what was foretold through all the prophets, that Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

THE SECOND READING Luke 24:36b–48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

HOMILY

“Taxed by Disbelief”

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Church World Service**. CWS was formed in response to an emergency—when churches helped to provide food, clothing and medical supplies to war-torn Europe and Asia following World War II. This many years later, churches are still responding to emergencies. First Congregational Church has responded quickly to disasters by helping to provide Emergency Cleanup Buckets and Blankets. Your cash donations today will allow Church World Service to respond quickly by providing food, temporary shelter, and clean water following the next disaster. Please give generously and help Church World Service be ready to help others quickly after disaster strikes. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 242

The strife is o'er

Victory

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *celebrant*

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

Nancy Livingston, *pianist*

Scott Jones, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Liturgist: Cori Rowley

Communion Preparation: Dawn George

Refreshments: Please Sign Up