



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 29, 2018

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 22:25–31 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: My praise is of you in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

**P: The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek you shall praise you:
“May your heart live for ever!”**

L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.

P: For yours is the royal power, O God; you rule over the nations.

L: To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before you.

P: My soul shall live for you; my descendants shall serve you; they shall be known as yours for ever.

L: They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn

P: the saving deeds that you have done.

THE FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 8:26–40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

THE SECOND READING

John 15:1–8

Jesus said, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. God is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

HOMILY

“Branching Out In Love”

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **OCC Outdoor Ministries**. Outdoor Ministries (ODM) Campership Fund through the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ provides funding for children and youth to attend a summer camp at Temple Hills, near Bellville. While the cost of camps vary, the ODM Campership Fund helps cover the cost of students in the Ohio Conference up to 60% of the camp fee. These funds will assist campers from across the Ohio Conference attend even if they or their churches do not have the funds to attend. Help enrich the experience for a young camper this summer. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 4

Joyful, joyful, we adore you

Hymn to Joy

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*
Gary Leidheiser, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 6

Liturgist: Laurie Maynell

Communion Preparation & Refreshments: The Provenzano Family