



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
SERVICE LEAFLET

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 26, 2019

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

\* PSALM OF THE DAY                      Psalm 67 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Be merciful to us, O God, and bless us; show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

**P: Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

**P: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

**P: The earth has brought forth its increase; may you, our own God, give us your blessing.**

L: May you give us your blessing,

**P: and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of you.**

THE FIRST READING                      The Acts of the Apostles 16:9–15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

THE SECOND READING          John 14:23–29

Jesus answered Thomas, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

”I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

HOMILY

“Look For Lydia. Look To Lydia”

Anthony Brown

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Strengthen the Church**, one of five Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ. The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations, including, in 2018, the completion of the Manual on Ministry and the Adese Fellowship program for spiritual entrepreneurship that worked to alleviate poverty. Your donations will help the UCC fulfill its commitment of creating a just world for all. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 576

For the Healing of the Nations

*Westminster Abbey*

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Rachael Gardner Purdy, *celebrant*

Anthony Brown, *preacher*

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston, *pianist*

Nicole Moss, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Liturgist: Please sign up

Refreshments and Communion: Francine and Alan Files