



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
SERVICE LEAFLET

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 2, 2019

The Seventh Sunday of Easter/The Sunday after the Ascension

\* PSALM OF THE DAY                      Psalm 97 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: You reign, O God; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

**P: Clouds and darkness are round about you;  
righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne.**

L: A fire goes before you and burns up your enemies on every side.

**P: Your lightning light up the world; the earth sees it and is afraid.**

L: The mountains melt like wax at your presence, O God, at your presence, O God of the whole earth.

**P: The heavens declare your righteousness, and all the peoples see your glory.**

L: Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Let all gods bow down before you.

**P: Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O God.**

L: For you are God, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

**P: You love those who hate evil; you preserve the lives of your saints  
and deliver them from the hand of the wicked.**

L: Light has sprung up for the righteous and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

**P: Rejoice in God, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy Name.**

THE FIRST READING                      The Acts of the Apostles 16:16–34

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

THE SECOND READING          John 17:20–26

Jesus said, “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

HOMILY

“Being One”

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Mark S. Williams

Cash and designated checks go to **Laundry Love**. The children and youth of First Church invite you to join them in this continuing yearlong mission project. Laundry Love is an initiative in partnership with individuals, groups and local laundromats throughout the country to wash the clothes and bedding of individuals and families living in poverty. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 257

Alleluia, Gracious Jesus

*Hyfrydol*

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

Anthony Brown, *celebrant*

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

Kevin Jones, *pianist*

Kelly Dodd, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 9  
Liturgist: Jenny Provenzano  
Communion and Refreshments: Nicole Moss

*Note: Next Sunday, June 9, is Pentecost Sunday. It is a longstanding tradition to wear red to mark the occasion. You are invited and encouraged to do so, if you so choose.*