



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 3, 2018

Proper 4

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 139: 1–6, 13–18 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

P: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

L: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

P: Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

L: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

P: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

L: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**P: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.**

L: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

P: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

**In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.**

L: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

P: I try to count them -- they are more than the sand; I come to the end -- I am still with you.

THE FIRST READING 1 Samuel 3:1–10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

THE SECOND READING Mark 2:23—3:6

One sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

HOMILY

"Which Will It Be: Do Good or Harm on the Sabbath?"

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Strengthen the Church**, one of five Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ. Strengthen the Church reimagines and builds the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and fulltime leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 395

In Christ there is no east or west

St. Peter

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WORSHIP LEADERS

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

Nancy Livingston, *pianist*

Scott Jones, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 10

Liturgist: Peter Murray

Communion Preparation: Feather/Murray Family

Refreshments: Loretta and Joe Hoffman