



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 8, 2018

The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proper 9

* PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 48

L: God is great and highly to be praised; in the city of our God is the holy hill.

**P: Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion,
the very center of the world and the city of the great Sovereign.**

L: God is in its citadels; God is known to be its sure refuge.

P: Behold, the monarchs of the earth assembled and marched forward together.

L: They looked and were astounded; they retreated and fled in terror.

**P: Trembling seized them there; they writhed like a woman in childbirth,
like ships of the sea when the east wind shatters them.**

L: As we have heard, so have we seen, in the city of the God of hosts, in the city of our God;
God has established it for ever.

P: We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.

L: Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to the world's end; your right hand is full of justice.

P: Let Mount Zion be glad and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments.

L: Make the circuit of Zion; walk round about it; count the number of its towers.

P: Consider well its bulwarks; examine its strongholds, that you may tell those who come after:

L: This God is our God for ever and ever

P: and shall be our guide for evermore.

THE FIRST READING

2 Samuel 5:1–5, 9–10

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel." So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inwards. And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

THE SECOND READING

Mark 6:1–13

Jesus left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a

staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

HOMILY

“A Hometown Prophet”

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **The Children’s Defense Fund**. The Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) is a non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly for nearly 40 years to ensure a level playing field for all children. They champion policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education and a moral and spiritual foundation. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 352

My God, accept my heart this day

St. Stephen

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

* PRAYER OF SENDING AND PROMISE OF RETURN OF KEVIN JONES

Rev. Ahrens

Rev. Ahrens: As Kevin Jones goes forth on his sabbatical, we offer our blessings and our prayers of thanksgiving. We trust the Holy Spirit will guide him, his family and us, while we are apart one from the other. While he is away we will include Kevin in our weekly prayers of the people. We also commend them to all of you for your daily prayers. He will be praying for all of us as well. Let us come together now as a covenant people, sharing our commitment to the grace of God; praying for God’s strength and guidance for the journey.

***People:* We pray for refreshment of spirit, by the power of God’s Holy Spirit.**

Mr. Jones: God’s blessing be upon you all as I seek renewal of God’s calling to ministry.

***People:* God be with you while we are away from one another. God fill you with a light spirit as you study, reflect, and visit new surroundings.**

Mr. Jones: I thank God for my ministry with you and the gift of this time you’ve given me.

***People:* May you experience the gift of spiritual growth in your journey. We will pray that you return renewed and energized for ministry. We send you with our blessing.**

Rev. Ahrens: Let us pray. Spirit of God, we pray for Kevin’s renewal and refreshment during this time of Sabbath rest. Renew him for ministry through this time set aside for reflection and study, the refreshment of a break from daily tasks and routine, and the excitement of new learning and direction. Grace him with your presence and keep him steadfast in the faith while we are gone one from another.

All: Amen!

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *celebrant*

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

Kevin Jones, *pianist*

Laurie Maynell, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 15

Liturgist: Mary Anne Jacobson

Communion Preparation & Refreshments: Cori Rowley