



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
SERVICE LEAFLET

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 28, 2019

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 12

\* PSALM OF THE DAY                      Psalm 138 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

**P: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**

L: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

**P: All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

L: They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the Lord.

**P: For though the LORD is high, God cares for the lowly and perceives then haughty from afar.**

L: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;  
you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

**P: You will make good your purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

THE FIRST READING                      Genesis 18:20–32

Then the LORD said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.” So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

THE SECOND READING      Luke 11:1–13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.” And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

HOMILY

“Slaves Arriving”

Rev. Ahrens

*Part one of the six-part sermon series, “400 Years of Africans in America.”*

MISSION INVITATION

Dawn George

Cash and designated checks go to **Faith Mission**. Each month a team of First Congregational Church volunteers prepares a meal and serves it at Faith Mission. Your donations ensure that the team has the resources to provide a nourishing meal to those whom Faith Mission serves. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 508

Prayer Is the Soul’s Sincere Desire

*St. Agnes*

*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*

The Rev. Rachael Gardner Purdy, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

Liturgist: Geoff Dean

Communion Preparation/Refreshments: Judy and Rachael Purdy