



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
SERVICE LEAFLET

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 4, 2019

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 13

\* PSALM OF THE DAY                      Psalm 49:1–12 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

**P: both low and high, rich and poor together.**

L: My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

**P: I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.**

L: Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,

**P: those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?**

L: Truly, no ransom avails for one's life, there is no price one can give to God for it.

**P: For the ransom of life is costly, and can never suffice**

L: that one should live on forever and never see the grave.

**P: When we look at the wise, they die; fool and dolt perish together and leave their wealth to others.**

L: Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations,  
though they named lands their own.

**P: Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.**

THE FIRST READING                      Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14, 2:18–23

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me —and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

THE SECOND READING      Luke 12:13–21

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

HOMILY

“Reconstruction and Deconstruction”  
*Part two of the six-part sermon series, “400 Years of Africans in America.”*

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Church World Service Hurricane and Disaster Relief**. Your donations will allow Church World Service respond quickly by providing food, temporary shelter, and clean water to those suffering from hurricane and natural disaster. Thank you for your generosity.

Nicole Moss

OFFERTORY HYMN 572

When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land  
*Want to give online? Please see the Depart to Serve insert for more information and a QR link.*

*Go Down Moses*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Anthony Brown, *celebrant*  
The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher*  
Tom Stewart, *pianist*  
Geoff Dean, *liturgist*

<p>LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 Liturgist: Jenny Provenzano Communion Preparation Refreshments: Jenny Provenzano</p>
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