



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 1, 2019

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 17

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 112 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Alleluia! Happy are they who fear God and have great delight in the commandments!

P: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blest.

L: Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last for ever.

P: Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

L: It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

P: For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

L: They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is right; they put their trust in God.

P: Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.

L: They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

**P: The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

THE FIRST READING Sirach 10:12–18

The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord;
the heart has withdrawn from its Maker.

For the beginning of pride is sin,
and the one who clings to it pours out abominations.

Therefore the Lord brings upon them unheard-of calamities,
and destroys them completely.

The Lord overthrows the thrones of rulers,
and enthrones the lowly in their place.

The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations,
and plants the humble in their place.

The Lord lays waste the lands of the nations,
and destroys them to the foundations of the earth.

He removes some of them and destroys them,
and erases the memory of them from the earth.

Pride was not created for human beings,
or violent anger for those born of women.

THE SECOND READING Luke 14:1, 7–14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

HOMILY

“Reparations”

Rev. Ahrens

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

MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

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/or families living in poverty. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 593

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Johnson

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

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

Marti Rideout, *pianist*

Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Liturgist: PLEASE SIGN UP

Communion Preparation: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

Refreshments: Hardekopfs