



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 2, 2018

The Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proper 17

* PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

L: My heart is stirring with a noble song; let me recite what I have fashioned for the king;
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

P: You are the fairest of men; grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you for ever.

L: Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your realm;
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

P: Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions.

L: All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes and cassia,

P: and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.

THE FIRST READING

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

THE SECOND READING Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

HOMILY

“A New Social Gospel”

Rev. Ahrens

Part six of the six-part sermon series, “The New Social Gospel”

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Immokalee Workers**. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is a worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in the fields of social responsibility, human trafficking, and gender-based violence at work. Built on a foundation of farmworker community organizing starting in 1993, and reinforced with the creation of a national consumer network since 2000, CIW’s work has steadily grown over more than twenty years to encompass three broad and overlapping spheres: Fair Food Program, Anti-Slavery Campaign and Campaign for Fair Food. Most recently the CIW work has brought them to Dublin, Ohio to the Wendy’s International Headquarters demanding that Wendy’s sign the Campaign for Fair Food. Please give generously.

OFFERTORY HYMN 410

If you but trust in God to guide you

Neumark

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

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

Tom Stewart, *pianist*

Geoff Dean, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Liturgist: Jenny Provenzano

Communion Preparation & Refreshments: Antoinette Beynen

