



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 8, 2019

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 18

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 1 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

P: but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on this law they meditate day and night.

L: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and
their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

P: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

L: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

P: for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

* A LITANY - OPEN AND AFFIRMING ANNIVERSARY

Rev. Corzine

L: Seventeen years ago today, this congregation voted to become an Open and Affirming Congregation. As we
celebrate this important milestone in our life together, let us pray to the Lord:

In the many silences of the heart, O God, when feeling is beyond saying,
Your faithful people everywhere wait upon Your Spirit. In the silence of joy –
when a baby is born,
when a sunset blazes,
when a loved one is restored to health,
when peace replaces strife –

P: In our joy, we wait upon You, O God. We give You thanks and praise.

L: In the silence of sorrow – when love is lost,
when pain is too constant a companion, when time brings change that is hard to bear, when death seems victori-
ous –

P: In our sorrow, we wait upon You, O God. You alone are our rock and our refuge.

L: In the silence of anger –
when justice is postponed until tomorrow, when violence shatters body and soul,
when prejudice sets neighbor against neighbor, when no one will listen –

P: In our anger, we wait upon You, O God. Teach us the ways of justice and mercy.

L: Let us put our trust where it belongs, not in our positions of power or wealth, for such things are lighter than
breath.

P: In our joy, our sorrow, our anger, we trust in God's unfailing love and guidance. We rely upon the blessing of being a community of faith, a Church universal. Sisters and brothers of many colors, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities, we are one in Christ! Together, let us wait upon the God of our salvation!

—by the Rev. Ann B. Day, Program Coordinator, Open and Affirming Program of the United Church of Christ
Coalition for LGBT Concerns 1987–2007. Based on Psalm 62:5–12. Originally published in *Shaping Sanctuary*

THE FIRST READING Deuteronomy 30:15–20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

THE SECOND READING Luke 14:25–33

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

HOMILY

“Cross Talk”

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Sue Cook

Cash and designated checks go to **Health Gives Hope**. Health Gives Hope is a non-profit organization formed to create a long-term relationship with the communities in rural Ethiopia. Health Gives Hope provides health care, clean water and sanitation and health education to the citizens of Bora, Ethiopia. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 451

Be Now My Vision

Slane

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *celebrant*

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

Tom Stewart, *pianist*

Elisha Hardekopf, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Liturgists: Nate and Donna Vogt

Communion Preparation and Refreshments: The Vogt Family

Gladden Lecture Series:

The Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, *guest preacher at 9, 11, and 4 (following Evensong)*