



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
SERVICE LEAFLET

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 9, 2018

The Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proper 18

\* PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 125

L: They who trust in God are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

**P: The hills stand about Jerusalem; so does God stand round about the people,  
from this time forth for evermore.**

L: The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just,  
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

**P: Show your goodness, O God, to those who are good, and to those who are true of heart.**

L: As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, God will lead them away with the evildoers;

**P: but peace be upon Israel.**

THE FIRST READING

Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all. Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

## THE SECOND READING

Mark 7:24–37

From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

## HOMILY

“Jesus is Open and Affirming”

Rev. Ahrens

## MISSION INVITATION

Teresa Polo

Today’s cash and designated checks go to the **First Church Refugee Resettlement Fund**. First Church has made a commitment to sponsor a refugee family. Refugees come here with literally the shirts on their backs, fleeing atrocities in their home country. We are waiting for our family to be assigned to us, but there is much to do to get ready to settle them in their new home in Columbus. Your gifts will provide for basic living expenses, i.e., shelter, food, clothing and any specific needs of our family. Please give generously.

## OFFERTORY HYMN 43

Love divine, all loves excelling

*Hyfrydol*

*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*Nancy Livingston, *pianist*Jenny Provenzano, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Liturgist: Jennifer Okezie-Watts

Communion Preparation: Please Sign Up

Refreshments: Please Sign Up