

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Second Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: God calls with a blessing.

Many: Our help is in God.

One: God calls with a promise.

Many: Our help is in God.

One: God calls through our questions.

Many: Our help is in God.

One: God calls through the Spirit.

Many: Our help is in God.

Everyone: Let's worship God!

*Opening Song:

“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

#56

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Spirit of help and hope, be with us this day. Breathe into our prayers and praise. Breathe into our spirits. Breathe into our worship with your promise of help, your promise of rebirth, and your promise of blessing. In faith and trust, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus or Sarah. We look for answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives.

Yet you continue to keep watch of us, Promise Giver, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives, or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the night. You will not stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You will always be our help, whether or not we recognize it or accept it, even as you remained faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Our hope, our help, our peace, our joy? All come from God, the One who loved us, and the world so much, that Jesus came to bring us salvation.

Many: Keeper of our souls, be with us; Watcher of our days, lead us; Salvation of our lives, have mercy on us. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 121

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

inside the back cover of the hymnal

(read together)

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:1-4a

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

“You Have My Word”

Pastor Chris

Communion Song

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

#699

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer, sharing the Bread and Cup

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

#34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

You call us to go out into the world with generosity, God. May these gifts call us from our lives of comfort and towards a faith journey that embraces your love, justice, and compassion for a world in need of your healing. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Closing Song** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" #84

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted) and Words of Assurance are from *Lectioary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *Worship Ways- Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith from **Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide**, posted on the website of Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba. <http://www.patmosabbey.org/>. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is by David Beebe from *Flames of the Spirit-Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey* edited by Ruth C. Duck

Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
March Radio Sponsor:	Tod & Shelly TerHark

Birthdays: March 9-Sam Grindberg; 10-Brendan Burtnett

Today, March 5: 10 am.- Worship with Communion
Sunday School
Coffee
Food Pantry

Monday, March 6-10: Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, March 7: 9:30-11am. -Pastor at Feed Mill
2:30pm.: Good same Bible Study

Wednesday, March 8: 7pm. - Board Meeting

Thursday, March 9: Ministerial Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 11: Daylight Savings begins

Sunday, March 12: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Indoor Clean-up after worship, with lunch

Meals on Wheels: We have all 3 routes through March 16.

It is time to order Easter Lilies again. They will be \$10.70. Please let the church office know if you would like one and of whom it is in honor or in memory.

The March, April, May issue of "Our Daily Bread" is here and may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

Remember to set your clock ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday.



**First Congregational
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