

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is a Stranger"
Third Sunday in Lent
March 12, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Come and see the ambassador of God's friendship for us.

Many: We will find Jesus waiting to meet us: in classrooms, at a shopping center, in all the common places and moments.

One: Come and hear the One who speaks of God's joy in us.

Many: We will listen to Jesus, whose words of grace and peace raise the rafters of our hope.

One: Come and know how much God loves you.

Many: We will discover Jesus, who offers us the gift of reconciliation.

One: Let's worship God!

*OPENING SONG "Come, Let Us Praise the Lord" #9

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Holy One, we are thankful for who you are and all that you are. Your presence is desired here. We take joy in knowing that you are as close to us as our next breath. We thirst for you. May we be filled to overflowing with your love. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

God of eternity, you know how often we travel down the rocky roads of doubt and fear. We pester others with our worries; we hurl bitter words at those we love. We have chances to offer ourselves in service, but only give our contempt to those in need. We could share the living waters with the world, but want to store it in jars for safe-keeping. Forgive us, Fountain of Grace. You turn towards us, to meet us wherever we are. You break open our rock-hard sin, so we might be made whole. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, our thirst for hope and joy is quenched. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: God does not disappoint us. Our sins are forgiven, our lives are made whole, we are sent forth to serve.

Many: In Jesus Christ, living water breaks through the roof of our hearts, in such abundance that we don't have enough buckets to hold it all. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 95

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and in others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone! Thanks be to God! Amen.

*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 Exodus 17:1-7 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE "There...on the Rocks" Pastor Chris

Lenten Song "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" #264

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY Words #44

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 (prayed together)

Fount of Blessing, receive our gifts in the joy that we give them. Be it time, tithe, or talent, it all comes from you. Thank you for blessing us to be a blessing to you and each other. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" #501

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted) and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Worship Ways- Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is from the United Church of Canada.

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

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Birthdays: March 15-Geoff Buchanan

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

Monday-Thursday, March 13-16: Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, March 14: 9am: Pastor Committee on Ministry Zoom Meeting
2:00pm.: Good Sam Bible Study

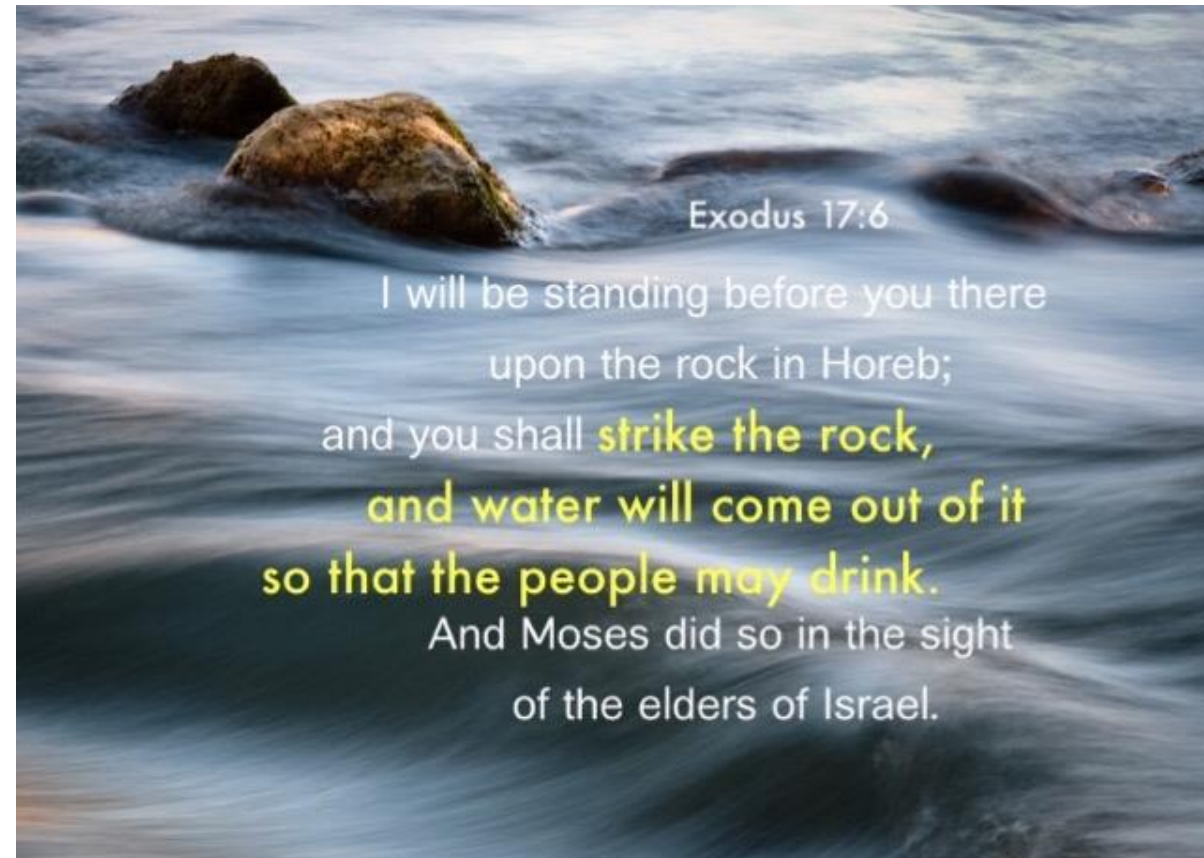
Friday and Saturday, March 17-18: Pilgrim Heights Board Meeting at Pilgrim Heights

Sunday, March 19: 10:00 am. – Worship – One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Sunday School
Coffee

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.

The April/May Newsletter deadline will be March 28.



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