

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: God has called us here to wake up and see!

Many: We come, seeking to live as children of light.

One: We gather in the name of Jesus.

Many: The One who is the light of the world and our light.

One: We have come to worship our God of mercy and light.

Many: We come to be fed and enlightened.

Everyone: Let's worship God!

*OPENING SONG “Your Servant Comes This Hour” #566

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Holy God, we sense your involvement in our lives. Like a shepherd, you watch over us and provide abundantly beyond our needs. You lead us in right paths when we are tempted to go another way. You refresh us with living water that overflows with your generosity. Shine your light on us here to reveal the truth we have not seen and open our eyes to the possibilities we may not have realized. May we be receptive to learn from you and one another. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

Great Shepherd, we thank you for finding us and bringing us to this time of prayer. We have wandered far from the paths of integrity, justice, and peace that you have set before us. We are ashamed of some things we do when we think no one will find out. We are quick to judge others and to excuse ourselves. We want to decide who is acceptable to you and who is not. We persuade ourselves that you prefer people like us and not those who appear, believe, or act differently. Even as we say those words, we know that we are not in tune with your way. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to change. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: The Spirit of the God has come upon us, bringing hope, life, and forgiveness for each person.

Many: We will go forth as God's children, sent to bring the good news to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 5:8-14

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe in God above us, Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.

We believe in Christ beside us, Companion and friend, redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe.

We believe in Spirit deep within us, Advocate and guide, who lives with us eternally.

We believe in God's resurrection created world, where all things are fixed, and all creation fits together in vibrant harmonies.

We believe in God above, beside, within, God yesterday, today and forever, the three in one, the one in three,

We believe in 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 1 Samuel 16:1-13 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE “Through God-Colored Glasses” Pastor Chris

Lenten Song “Near the Cross” #479

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)

As we rejoice in your goodness and mercy, we offer you our gifts this day, God of Abundance. Through our offering, may others be blessed, as we have been blessed from your hands. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

#24

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) is from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2 Liturgical Resources for year A* and *Taught By Love, Worship Resources for Year A* both by Lavon Bayler. The Opening Prayer (adapted), Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession are from *Taught By Love-Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by B.J. Beu from the *Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J.Be. The Affirmation of Faith is from the Lenten series *Journey into Wholeness* written by Christine Sine.

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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 20-Sandy Person, Max Person; 23-Helen Scuffham; 24-Isaac Hines

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

Tuesday, March 21: 9:30-11am: Pastor at Feed Mill
2:00pm.: Good Sam Bible Study

Thursday, March 23: 10am.-Clergy Cluster Meeting at Humboldt

Sunday, March 26: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
11am. -12:30pm. Remembering Chuck Fellowship 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.

The radio sponsorship on KLGa has increased the price to \$32.50/Sunday. It would be \$130 for 4 Sundays a month and \$162.50 for 5 Sundays.



***First Congregational
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