

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is A Stranger”  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 30, 2025

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS+

### \*Call to Worship

(read responsively)

One: Come, all you faithful!

**Many: We have come to worship, praise and pray!**

One: Come, all you unfaithful!

**Many: We have come because God’s love welcomes us home!**

One: Come into the presence of Jesus!

**Many: We have come because his grace makes us whole!**

One: Come, let’s worship God!

### \*Opening Song:

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

#23

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of ages past and present faithfulness, welcome us into your love, as we worship you this day. Draw closer to us, that we might trust your promises and follow your ways. In hope and faith, we pray. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On this very day, Waiting God, we admit all the lengths to which we go so we might avoid you. You offer us that kingdom of joy and wonder, yet we would hide in places where temptation waits. You invite us to feast on your grace and peace, but we stubbornly refuse, because you also welcome those we call ‘outsiders.’ We are quick to see all the mistakes that those around us make, but hope you will ignore our foolish choices.

Celebrating God, before we come to our senses, we find you running towards us, sweeping us up in your arms, tears of grace mingling with our cries of confession, a mighty river washing away our sinful ways to restore us to new life. In Jesus our Savior,

we find no limitations on your grace, no reservations about your love, but a feast that overflows with wonder, a place we can finally call home.

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God rolls away everything that stands in our way - our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation. What wonderful grace. We are forgiven!

**Many: Broken, we are made whole; lost, we are brought home; empty, we are filled with songs of gladness. We rejoice and give thanks to God who has graced us with mercy. Amen.**

### SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Joshua 5: 9-12

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(read together)

**We believe in God, Father, Creator and Creating; who gives us steadfast love, and shares with us our joy, and sustains us in our suffering. God’s power is open to us; we trust God.**

**We follow Jesus, Son of God, Son of humankind. His death is our victory, his resurrection is our hope; in him the Word became flesh; in him we are offered forgiveness from sin, renewal from failure, reconciliation from brokenness, release from despair.**

**We are guided by the Holy Spirit, God’s presence in the world. By the Spirit we are called into Christ’s Church, to celebrate his love, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, to share with him in Baptism and to eat at his Table. Because we are his disciples, his pilgrim people, we joyfully covenant with each other to walk together in love, to pray for one another, to care for one another, to live in communion with others, in life, in death, in life beyond death. God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

### \* GLORIA PATRI:

“Glory Be to the Father”

#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:

Luke 15:1-3, 11b

read from the *Common English Bible*

### MESSAGE:

“Reshaped, Renewed, Restored”

Pastor Chris

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER

(with debts/debtors)

**PRESENTING OUR GIFTS**

**\* DOXOLOGY:** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #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**  
With glad hearts, we offer our gifts to you, Prodigal God. Transform them with the power of your Holy Spirit, that they may bring forth new life in the new creation you promise to all. Amen.

**CLOSING SONG:** “This Is a Day of New Beginnings” #355

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

**POSTLUDE**

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

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2025* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is from the *Eat, Pray, Love, Liturgy* website.

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Organist: Antonia Rupert  
Worship Leader: David Burrow  
Pastor: Rev. Chris Burtnett  
March Radio Sponsor: Scott and Sandy Buchanan  
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**Birthdays:** April 2-Harold Reynolds  
**Sunday, March 30:** 10:30am – Worship - One Great Hour of Sharing Offering  
Sunday School  
Coffee

**Tuesday, April 1:** 9:30am.-Pastor at Feed Mill  
5:00 pm.-AAUW STEM Presentation in Fellowship Hall  
6:00 - 7:30 pm.-CCC English Class in Room E

**Wednesday, April 2:** 6:00 pm-Wedding consultation

**Thursday, April 3:** 6:00 - 7:30 pm.-CCC English Class in Room E

**Sunday, April 6:** 10:30am – Worship – with Sacrament of Communion  
Sunday School  
Coffee  
Food Pantry  
Spring Clean-up following worship with soup lunch

**April 1-15:** We are responsible for 2 routes for Meals on Wheels. Sign-up sheet in Parlor.



*First Congregational  
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