

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

First Sunday of Lent
Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen, Pastor
Don Oakleaf, Lay Reader

February 21, 2021

Worship 10:30 AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Brightly Beams our Father's Mercy* arr. James C. Kasen

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the rich Spirit of God, welcome.

Grace and peace be yours.

Today we begin our Lenten journey into the heart of our faith.

We turn toward the cross and empty tomb and the mystery that from death comes new life.

And this is the journey for us, to die and rise with Christ.

Yes, to die to all that diminishes life, to rise to new abundance.

So, may we die to fear and rise to love.

May we die to defensiveness and rise to new openness.

May we die to judgments and rise to compassion.

May we die to pettiness and rise to generosity.

May we die to punitiveness and rise to gentleness.

May we die to normalcy and rise to passion.

May we die to cynicism and rise to hope.

May we die to self-absorption and rise to a sense of purpose.

May the life of Christ take root in us.

May it grow us into the people of God. This is our prayer, now and always. Amen.

HYMN #72 *Great is Thy Faithfulness* (vs 1&3) (Please sing along at home)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

all I have needed thy hand hath provided--
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

INVOCATION (in unison)

Companion of my growth, many are the turns and tumbles of my ever-changing life. As I find my way on the journey of spiritual transformation, I trust that your abiding presence will guide and guard me. I open the door of my heart to you. I open the door. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (Trespases)

*GLORIA PATRI (Please sing along at home)

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON *Genesis 9: 8-17*

HYMN #254 *Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley* (Vs. 1&2) (Please sing along at home)

Jesus walked this lonesome valley,
he had to walk it by himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for him,
he had to walk it by himself.

Jesus prayed for his disciples;
he prayed alone for you and me.
O, nobody else could bear such sorrow;
he prayed alone for you and me.

MORNING PRAYER

GOSPEL LESSON *Mark 1: 9-15*

SERMON *Being a Rainbow in Someone Else's Cloud* Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

OFFERING OF SPECIAL MUSIC *Ave Verum Corpus* W. A. Mozart
First Congregational Church Choir

*DOXOLOGY (Please sing along at home)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

With joyous thanksgiving, we offer ourselves and our substance to honor you, our Creator. In consideration of the poor, both those who lack basic necessities and all who are spiritually destitute, we dedicate this offering. We want to be responsible stewards of all the resources gathered by our church and of all the bounty you have entrusted to us individually. Show us the way, gracious God. Amen.

HYMN # 506 *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* (vs 1-3) (Please sing along at home!)

I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* arr. by John Rutter (for piano solo)

Call to Worship reprinted from *Breathing New Life into Lent* by Pritchard, McKinstry & Powers;
Invocation reprinted from *Open Door*, by Joyce Rupp; *Unison Prayer of Dedication* reprinted from *Led By Love* by Lavon Bayler

*Please stand if you are able.

Thank you to our live stream team today of Don Raw, Jr. and Mike Ryan!

Happy Birthday

2/21 Nancy Gilbert
2/23 Linda Orrell-Fair & Laurie Stoutz
2/24 Norma Barton, Mariena Schneider, & Silas McAlpin
2/26 Jack Wheeler
2/27 Linda Case

Prayer List

Ancy (Fred Henry's friend); **Steve Beck** (Heidi Schwarz's brother); **Bill Blaker; Brad Bliss; Marjorie Case; Cheryl** (Jennifer Maxfield's sister-in-law); **Don & Judy Clark** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' friends); **Cathy Coots; Paris and Kira** (Friends of Fred Henry); **Bob DeSantis** (Dorice & Don Raw, Sr.'s friend); **Julie English** (Janet & Kim Tenreiro's friend); **Brian Fuscaldo** (Mara Huberlie's nephew); **Jerry Gomez** (Kathi Nacca's friend); **Carin Herren; Jill** (Rhonda Nyerges' daughter in law); **Jim and Carolyn** (Amy Ogden's friends); **The King Family** (Fred Henry's friends); **Jim Kolesar** (George & Carin Herren's friend); **Sue Kotalik; Jan Larsen** (Dawn's mother); **Michelle List** (JoAnn Reed's friend); **Loren** (Meg & Jack Radley's friend); **Lynn** (Joan Ryan's friend); **Eileen McCarthy** (Carla DeMeco & Betsy Dresser's friend); **Sally Mueller; Liz Nelson** (Kathy Ward's friend); **Norman** (Jennifer Maxfield's uncle); **Margaret Page** (Bonnie Maguire's mother); **Pia** (Jim & Connie Malone's friend); **Chris Pritchard** (Rick, Cindy Mullen & George Herren's friend); **Jack and Meg Radley; Don Raw, Sr.; Sara** (Meg & Jack Radley's granddaughter); **Smith/Dworetsky Family** (Okke & Kathy Postma's friends); **Pat Smith; Dr. Steven Smith & Family** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' friends); **Sally Stowell** (Alice Berry's mother); **Walker** (Don & Dorice Raw's friend); **Tom Wallace** (Jackie Lowe's significant other); **Kathy Ward; Gordon Wenner** (George & Carin Herren's friend); **Robin Wisniewski** (Alicia's mom); **Josh Yeo** (Barb Stahl's friend); **Jason Zeller** (Kathy Ward's son); **Linda Zeller** (Kathy Ward's daughter in law)

Calendar

Monday Feb 22 - Study Grp 9; 5:30 Study Grp
Fri. Feb. 26 – Prayer Shawl @ Sally Mueller's 2:00
Sunday Feb 28 - Worship Live Stream 10:30; hybrid Sunday School
Monday March 1- Study Grp 9; 5:30 Study Grp; Light Hill Flower Pick up 4-6
Tues. March 2 - Men's Group Gateway 8; Study 9;
Wed. March 3 - Study 9; TOPS 10
Sunday March 7 - Live Stream 10:30; hybrid Sunday School; Social Action 11:45 Zoom
Monday March 8 – Trustees 4 zoom
Tues. March 9 – Men's Group Gateway 8; Study 9; Celtic Music and Hymn Sing 3
Wed. March 10 - Study 9; TOPS 10
Thurs. March 11 – Pastor Parish 10 zoom;
Sunday March 14 - Worship Live Stream 10:30; hybrid Sunday School
Monday March 15 – Service of Lament, 7:00 Zoom