

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen, Pastor
Dan Rice, Lay Reader

January 31, 2021

Worship 10:30 AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Lord Speak to Me

arr. Robert Powell

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to You imperfect and in need of forgiveness, blessed One.

Help us to face the cost of forgiveness.

In speaking the truth, uncovering lies, deceit and hypocrisy, give us courage to name what is good and what is evil. God of judgement and grace,

Help us to face the cost of forgiveness.

In standing up against evil, confronting it in others and owning it in ourselves, give us the strength to pursue justice. God of justice and grace,

Help us to face the cost of forgiveness.

In the fulfillment of justice, repenting wrongdoing and accepting the consequences, give us the gift of forgiveness. God of goodness and grace,

Help us to face the cost of forgiveness.

In forgiving and being forgiven, released from shame and able to begin again, give us the growth of healing. God of mercy and grace,

Help us to face the cost of forgiveness.

HYMN #631 There is a Balm in Gilead (vs. 1 & 3) (Please sing along at home!)

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend.

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

INVOCATION (in unison)

O Divine Healer, we confess that sometimes we yearn for you to wave a magic wand over our wounded lives to remove our pain, illness, and suffering. We hear the gospel

story of the one seeking healing from Jesus and assume you will perform a similar miracle for all of us – if we just pray hard enough! And we do pray! Open our eyes to recognize the teachings and tools you have given us with which to seek healing in the midst of our afflictions and diseases. You whisper to us that wholeness requires self-care and rest; You breathe into us energy to move and stretch and reach toward health; You place in us an urgency to seek justice so that all may enjoy adequate health care; Renew our spirits in the midst of our dis-eases and afflicting spirits. Transform us, O Holy One, for the health of your creation. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (Trespases)

*GLORIA PATRI (Please sing along at home!)

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON *Psalm 111*

HYMN #348 Softly and Tenderly (vs. 1 & 3) (Please sing along at home!)

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home;

earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.

Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home;

earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

MORNING PRAYER

GOSPEL LESSON *Mark 1: 21-28*

SERMON

Beneath the Surface

Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

OFFERING OF SPECIAL MUSIC *The Lord Is My Shepherd from Requiem* by John Rutter
Steve Smith, oboe

*DOXOLOGY (Please sing along at home!)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

By giving away some of the wealth we cherish so much, we keep ourselves focused on who you are, gracious God, and on what you expect of us. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present be used in ways that encourage healthful behaviors among us in the church, within our community, and as far as our influence can reach. Receive us and our gifts, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN #728 **God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand (vs 1 & 2)** (Please sing along at home!)

God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before your throne arise.

Your love divine has led us in the past,
in this free land by you our lot is cast;
be now our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath* arr. Robert J. Powell

Call to Worshi padapted and reprinted from Bare Feet & Buttercups, Jan Berry; Invocation adapted and reprinted from Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel; Unison Prayer of Dedication reprinted from Led by Love by Lavon Bayler

***Please stand if you are able.**

Happy Birthday

Feb. 1 – Sally Mueller & Justin Maxfield

Feb. 3 – Doug Alling

Feb. 5 – Ann Scheetz

Prayer List

Steve Beck (Heidi Schwarz's brother); **Brad Bliss**; **Guy Burns**; **Marjorie Case**; **Cheryl** (Jennifer Maxfield's sister-in-law); **Don & Judy Clark** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' friends); **Cathy Coots**; **Den, 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**; **Jim and Carolyn** (Amy Ogden'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)

February is Black History Month!

There is such a rich tradition of spirituals and gospel music in the black church that we decided to dedicate our Music and Hymn Sing in February to Spirituals. Elaine and Jim Hilton will lead Feb.'s musical event. Elaine will play spirituals on the organ and together Jim and Elaine will lead a hymn sing of gospel hymns and spiritual songs. This event will be live streamed on **Tuesday, February 9 at 3:00**. We hope you'll join us!

Calendar

Mon. Feb 1 - Study Grp 9; 5:30 Study Grp; Sacred Conversation on Race 7 Zoom

Sat. Feb 6 – Steven Smith Benefit Raffle Fundraiser 3-6pm Social Rooms

Sunday Feb 7 - Worship Live Stream 10:30; Communion, Annual Meeting 11 Zoom

Mon. Feb 8 - Study Grp 9; Trustees 4; 5:30 Study Grp

Tues. Feb 9 - 2:30 Spirituals and Hymn Sing Live Stream with Jim & Elaine Hilton

Thurs. Feb. 11 – Staff Meeting 4 in person

Sunday Feb 14 – Valentine's Day; Worship Live Stream 10:30; hybrid Sunday School; 11:45 Congreg. Life zoom

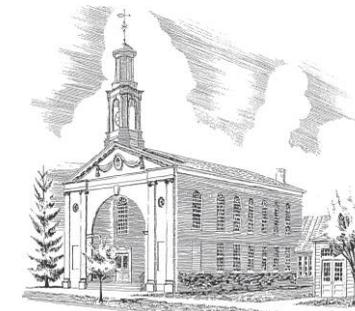
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

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We're a Different Kind of Church

- ❖ We value and respect diversity in the ways we express our faith.
- ❖ We enjoy thoughtful dialogue about faith issues.
- ❖ We encourage each other to work for justice and to care for people in need in our community and in our world.

