

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen, Pastor
Janet Tenreiro, Lay Reader

March 14, 2021

Worship 10:30 AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision* arranged by Charles Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of life in all its abundance, we come to you today breathing deeply your presence.

So let your Spirit flow through us, through every part of us.

When we are strong, bring us to praise.

When we are blessed, bring us to gratitude.

When we are alive and loved and able to love, bring us to laughter and wonder.

Where we are wounded or shattered, bring us to healing.

Where we are worried or afraid, bring us to hope.

Where we are driven, bring us to peace.

Where we are lost, claim us anew and bring us to a hunger and thirst for what it right.

Where we are empty or deadened, bring us to life, in you. Move in us with your great power and love, through Christ. Amen.

HYMN #260 *The Old Rugged Cross* (Please sing along at home)

**On a hill far away
stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross,
where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.**

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.**

**To the old rugged cross
I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day**

**to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.**

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.**

INVOCATION (in unison)

Trusted Companion, at certain times the door to my heart squeaks with willful resistance. It also gets rusty from lack of use, refuses to budge and won't loosen. Come with your oilcan of grace-filled love. Release what keeps me from being true to you. 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 *Numbers 21: 4-9*

HYMN #499 *He Leadeth Me* (vs 1&2) (Please sing along at home)

**He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.**

**Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whate'er my lot may be,
since 'tis my God who leadeth me.**

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.**

MORNING PRAYER

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3: 14-17

SERMON

Opening our Hearts to God Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

OFFERING OF SPECIAL MUSIC *Adagio* by Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Lee J. Afdahl;
Hannah Weeden, flute; Addie Rudolph, cello; Denise Morphy, organ

*DOXOLOGY (Please sing along at home)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

For life-sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted – for shelter, food, and meaningful tasks to do; for your steadfast love that awakens us and raises us from our sinful ways; for your word that guides and heals us – we give you thanks, gracious God. As we invest a part of all you entrust to us to further the ministries of the church, may we show to others the immeasurable riches of your grace in Jesus Christ. Make this church a beacon of hope for the world. Amen.

HYMN #24 *God You Spin the Whirling Planets* (vs 1 & 3) (Please sing along at home)

**God, you spin the whirling planets,
fill the seas and spread the plain,
mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
Call forth sunshine, wind and rain.
We created in Your image,
would a true reflection be
of your justice, grace and mercy
and the truth that makes us free.**

**God, your will is still creating,
calling us to life made new,
now reveal to us fresh vistas
where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion,
fashion us with loving care,
thus, new creatures in your image,
we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.**

BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE *O Day of Peace* C.H.H. Parry arr. by Charles Callahan

*Call to Worship reprinted from Breathing New Life Into Lent, V.2, Pritchard, McKinstry & Powers;
Invocation adapted and 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 Steve Brooks and Dan Casellas!

Thank you to Edie & Dan Rice, our Hymn Leaders today!

Happy Birthday

March 14 – Grace Uhlen

March 20 – Jennifer Schneider

Prayer List

Ancy (Fred Henry's friend); **Steve Beck** (Heidi Schwarz's brother); **Brad Bliss; Marjorie Case; Cheryl** (Jennifer Maxfield's sister-in-law); **Don & Judy Clark** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' friends); **Cathy Coots; 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); **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** (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); **Paris and Kira** (Friends of Fred Henry); **Pia** (Jim & Connie Malone's friend); **Chris Pritchard** (Rick, Cindy Mullen & George Herren's friend); **Jack Radley; Don Raw, Sr.; Sara** (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 March 15 – Study Grp 9:00; Study Grp 5:30; Service of Lament 7:00 Zoom
Tues. March 16 – Men's Group Gateway 8:00; Study Grp 9:00; Church Council 7:00 Zoom
Wed. March 17 - Study Grp 9:00; TOPS 10:00
Thurs. March 18 – Staff Meeting 4:00; Reopening Comm. Meeting 7:00 Zoom
Friday March 19 – Live Stream Practice 5:30 Sanct.
Sunday March 21 - Worship Live Stream 10:30; hybrid Sunday School
Monday March 22 - Study Grp 9:00; Study Grp 5:30; SCR 7:00 Zoom
Tues. March 23 - Men's Group Gateway 8:00; Study Grp 9:00; SCR Leaders 7:00 Zoom
Wed. March 24 - Study Grp 9:00; TOPS 10:00
Thurs. March 25 - Soup Supper 6:30 Zoom
Friday March 26 - Prayer Shawl @ Sally Mueller's 2:00; Live Stream Practice 12:00
Sunday March 28 – Palm Sunday Worship Live Stream 10:30; hybrid Sunday School

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.