



Doris Merrill

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
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ALL ARE WELCOME

*“Friend, you enter this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God.
Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks upon your lips,
and offer God today your love and your service.”*

(Adapted from a 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England)

March 15, 2015 The Third Sunday in Lent

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education. In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others. In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

*HYMN NO. 23

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Light is God’s gift to each, and to all together.

All: Let us give thanks to God for days of watchful care.

One: Let those whom God has redeemed rejoice!

All: Let us tell the world of God’s good news!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

Loving God, who sent Jesus to earth to share our common lot and bring eternal life into our midst, help us to believe and to trust. Show us the light of your revelation and help us to welcome its presence in the life of this congregation as we gather and when we scatter to our daily activities. May we consciously represent you in all our deeds so that the world may come to a saving knowledge of your grace. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #760 (Ma-si-thi) Amen siyakudumisa (repeat x1)

Amen Bawo, Amen Bawo, Amen siyakudumisa

(Sing Amen) Amen, we praise your name, O God (repeat x1)

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen we praise your name, O God.

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD’S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN’S OFFERING

“This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine (x4)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

In our thanks, these gifts we bring, for you give us everything. Teach us how to follow you, in all we say, and all we do. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Heidi

Followed by THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen. (Children may now go on to their classes.)

*HYMN NO. 223

"Wondrous Love is This"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT READING The Gospel of Mark: Chapter 9 - READER'S THEATRE
Narrator – Pastor Deborah; Jesus – Carl Hepworth; Voice from Heaven – Diana Sweeney;
Peter – Fred Merrill; Disciple – Steve Davis; Father – Dee Deranian

INTERACTIVE REFLECTION – Transfiguration; Jesus heals a boy – because the disciples couldn't; Jesus foretells his death again; Disciples argue over who is more important; Jesus stresses the importance of hospitality; whoever wants to be first must be last.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"We Are Called"

Haas, arr. Hayes

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP AND OUR PRAYERS

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH – Who is Antoinette Brown Blackwell?

AGAPE WEEKEND WITH KAIROS – Diana Sweeney

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Don't Be Afraid"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

In joyous Thanksgiving, we offer sacrifices of time and resources to announce God's healing grace to the world. It is our privilege to participate in God's wonderful works to humankind, to share the steadfast love that is saving us, and to offer life to those who are perishing.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #562

**Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me, I have love to give a way,
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.

WE ARE SENT OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

*HYMN NO. 547

"Amazing Grace"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Seven-fold Amen"

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH
DEACONS OF THE MONTH
LAY READER
USHERS

GREETER(s)
PASTOR
AFFILIATE PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
CE DIRECTOR

Members of the Congregation
Brian Williams and Reni Harnden
Reni Harnden
Ross and Linda Webber
Kevin and Diane Gordon
Michael Bryan
Ruth Honnors
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
Rev. Chester R. Ham
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Lindsey Roman
Heidi Heath

First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, March 15

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Kids Church Program ~ Room -John
11:15am Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal ~
MacGregor
11:30pm Potluck Lunch
12:00pm All Committees Meeting ~ Currier
6:00pm Youth Group ~ Luke

Monday, March 16

7:00pm Trp 405 Meeting ~ Currier
7:00pm Trp 405 Board of Review ~ A/B
7:00pm Trp 405 Patrol Leaders Council ~
John

Tuesday, March 17

11:00AM Knutkowski Funeral
10:00am Nutfield Gym ~ Currier
4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke
6:30pm AA ~ Library
7:00pm OA ~ A/B
7:00pm Trp 405 Committee Mtg. ~ Currier

Wednesday, March 18

6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke
6:00pm Lenten Supper ~ Currier
7:00pm Lenten Service ~ Currier
7:00pm CS Pack 405 Committee ~ A/B

Thursday, March 19

8:00am Childcare, Nutfield Conferences ~
Nursery
12:15pm Ecumenical Communion & Prayer ~
A/B
3:15 Staff Meeting in A/B
6:15pm Sacred Dance ~ Sanctuary
6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~
A/B/John/Luke/Currier
7:00pm Council ~ Cook
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room

Friday, March 20

5:00pm Youth Group – Concert ~ Offsite
7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B
9:30pm AA Fri Night Assoc. ~ A/B

Saturday, March 21

10:00am Heart Saver CPR/AED ~ A/B
7:30pm AA ~ Currier

Sunday, March 22

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Kids Church Program ~ John
11:15am Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal ~
MacGregor

NO YOUTH GROUP