

First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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February 21, 2016

Second Sunday in Lent

Scouting Sunday



Scouting Sunday

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)

February 21, 2016 Second Sunday of Lent Scouting Sunday

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

*HYMN NO. 24

"The God of Abraham Praise"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God calls us together to worship this morning.

We come from all walks of life, from every direction.

**All: From our work and play within the world,
we gather here in God's presence.**

One: God gathers us together to worship and praise God;

**All: We give thanks for creation's goodness, for the strength to labor, and
for the wisdom to relax.**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

Almighty God, Creator of us all, how thankful we are that you have come into our lives through your Holy Spirit. We pray today for God's children - all the children of the world. May they find peace and love in their families and schools and learn the love of Jesus Christ. We also pray for our young people, who are seeking a cause which is worthy of their life's commitment. We know that our youth must deal with a host of options. We give thanks that scouting shows one path and we pray that they may follow the way of love as shown by Jesus, our Christ, our Teacher, our Friend. 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 we praise your name, O God.

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

"I'm Gonna Sing"

I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing (x2)

I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Dear God, we offer you our gifts with thanks and praise, be with us and guide us all of our days. Teach us how to love each other, and to shine your light into the world. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Heidi

LET'S MEET OUR SCOUTS: RESPONSIVE SCOUTING LITANY

Scout: The Scout Law calls a Scout to work toward being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

Congregation: The Scout law is a guiding light to millions of boys and young adults throughout the world today, beginning with principles of the Law from ancient days:

Scout: A Scout is trustworthy. Exodus chapter 20, verse 16 says:

Congregation: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Scout: A Scout is loyal. Luke chapter 16, verse 10 says:

Congregation: Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.

Scout: A Scout is helpful. Leviticus chapter 19, verse 18 says:

Congregation: You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Scout: A Scout is friendly. Psalm 133 says:

Congregation: Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Scout: A Scout is courteous. Ephesians chapter 4, verse 29 says:

Congregation: Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

Scout: A Scout is kind. Proverbs chapter 12, verse 10 says:

Congregation: A righteous man has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.

Scout: A Scout is obedient. Ephesians chapter 6, verse 1-3 says:

Congregation: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" —this is the first commandment with a promise: "so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Scout: A Scout is cheerful. Proverbs chapter 15, verses 13-15 says:

Congregation: A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken. The mind of one who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly. All the days of the poor are hard, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.

Scout: A Scout is thrifty. Proverbs chapter 6, verses 6-8 says:

Congregation: Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise. Without having any chief or officer or ruler, it prepares its food in summer, and gathers its sustenance in harvest.

Scout: A Scout is brave. Deuteronomy chapter 31, verse 6 says:

Congregation: Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.

Scout: A Scout is clean. Psalm 24, verse 3-5 says:

Congregation: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in God's holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

All Scouts Together: A Scout is reverent, he is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion. Mark chapter 12, verse 30 says:

Congregation: And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and greatest commandment.

*HYMN NO. 193 *"In the Cross of Christ I Glory "*

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURE	Genesis 15:1-8	(O.T. p. 13)
GOSPEL	Luke 13:31-35	(N.T. p. 78)
SERMON	Questions for God	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
CHOIR ANTHEM	<i>"The Prayer of St. Patrick"</i>	

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

"Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary." And they will give generously and joyously for they give back a mere portion of what they have been given. "God loves a cheerful giver!"

*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 away,
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May the gifts that we now offer up to God be a sign of our trust in God's promise of a new tomorrow, a better day, a sign that love and forgiveness have indeed found a way. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 493

"Oh Jesus, I have Promised"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

Genesis 15.1-8

15 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’² But Abram said, ‘O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’³ And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’⁵ He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

7 Then he said to him, ‘I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’⁸ But he said, ‘O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’

Luke 13.31-35

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’³² He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.”³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.”³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”’