

March 19, 2017

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 TO ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*HYMN #4

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come; let us sing a new song to our God.

Make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us enter God's presence with thanksgiving.

Make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

One: God is a great ruler, above all other gods.

The depths of the earth are in God's hands.

All: The highest mountains belong to God.

The farthest reaches of the universe are God's own

One: O come, let us worship and bow down.

Let us kneel before God our Maker.

All: We are the people of God's pasture.

Today we will listen to God with open hearts.

*INVOCATION

We come to you, God because our spirits need the refreshing water of your word. We worship you with joy, for we can already feel the gift of your presence all around us. Open our ears that we may hear all that you expect of us. Open our lives to your truth and prepare us to follow Jesus in accepting the unacceptable, challenging the conventional, and joining together in a harvest for your realm. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #756

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

At this time, all children are invited to come forward for the children's offering, and children's time. An offering is not required for participation. All are welcome, especially first time visitors.

CHILDREN'S OFFERING #327

"Jesus Loves Me"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sue Handy

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.

HYMN #290

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

GOSPEL

John 4:5-42

(N.T.p. 97)

SERMON

Building Community

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

O, For a Thousand Tongues

Mark Hayes

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHOIR RESPONSE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

When we stop to consider the amazing riches God has provided on this planet, how wonderful! Good soil and water give us food in abundance. Gifts of the Spirit grant life with eternity in it. Let us express our wonder and gratitude through our offering of tithes and lives.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #785

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Thank you, God, for all the ways we have benefited from the labor of others. We here offer our best for the sake of brothers and sisters who need the love and encouragement you are eager to share through us. Keep us from being ungrateful as we continue to receive so much more than we stop to realize. When life is difficult, help us to endure and to hope because your love is sure and certain, ours to receive and to give, in Christ's name. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

***HYMN #18**

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Members of the Congregation

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Julie Dubisz and Joanne Worthen

LAY READER

Julie Dubisz

USHERS

Ken Gould, Brian Williams, Dee Deranian

Shirley Dickason and Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

Lisa & Wayne Hall

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Susan Handy

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Christine Lehoullier

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

Chris Ferrin

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Hannah Collier

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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