

Welcome, All Worshipers

**Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.**

"Although Christianity is booming in some parts of the world, in the U.S. and Europe faith has been on a steady decline. Our ancestors experienced times of doubt while continuing to practice their faith. In contrast, many moderns live in a sea of doubt, and find faith incomprehensible, or at least outmoded." - Phillip Yancey

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(\* indicates when those who are able will stand.)  
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Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAT LABADIE, LAY READER

(Please complete the Friendship Book as it is passed during announcements; then pass it toward the center aisle.)

***OPENING HYMN: #491 AWAKE, MY SOUL, STRETCH EVERY NERVE** ALL VERSES

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Lazarus, though dead, was called to life by Jesus.

All: May we be called to the light of righteousness.

Leader: As others witnessed this resurrection, they believed in Jesus.

All: May we, who have heard, believe in the power of Jesus to conquer our fears and doubts.

Leader: Praise be to God who has given us Jesus.

All: Praise be to Jesus who has given us life. AMEN.

***Opening Prayer**

All: Healing and Empowering God, we are sometimes so sure that things will not work out, we doubt even your ability to put things right in our lives. We lack such faith. But Jesus came to show us that our most dreaded enemy - death - can be overcome by faith. Heal our doubts and our longings for assurance and give us spirits of trust and hope. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

***The Gloria Patri** (sung)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Words: Anonymous, 4th Century.

Music: Henry Greatorex. This selection is in the public domain.

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: PSALM 130 AND JOHN 11:1-45

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DEBORAH BUTLER

SERMON: WHO CAN STAND?

REV. JON GOUGEON

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

***HYMN: #455 I AM YOURS, O LORD** ALL VERSES

(PLEASE BE SEATED.)

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING

MINISTER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW.
PRAISE GOD ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST.
PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.
WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR
JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.**

***CLOSING HYMN: #454 LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN** ALL VERSES

*Minister: Let us join together and read responsively:

***All: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.**

***BENEDICTION**

Minister: Lord, unbind us from our fears and doubts. As we go from this place of worship, be with us in our witness to the power and love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***UNISON RESPONSE: And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand. Amen.** Words/music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream obtained from One License #A-739847.

Postlude

*Please join us for Fellowship Time following the service.
We would love to get to know you better!*

OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY

Lay Reader: **Pat Labadie** Altar Guild: **Pat Garant**
Ushers: **Ashley Wedge** and **Lynne Stewart** Greeters: **Joe & Pat Garant**
Counter: **Tammy Veasy** Children's Message: **Deborah Butler**
Fellowship Hosts: **Ron & Lynn Borke** and **Beth & Megan Petty**

This Week's Calendar

Sunday March 26 10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Fellowship Time
Wednesday March 29 5:00 p.m. Simple Supper & Worship Service
(at St. Paul Lutheran Church)
Thursday March 30 5:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Announcements

- ❖ Please note - Holy Week observances are as follows:
 - April 6 - Trinity Episcopal - Simple Supper at 5:00 followed by Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00.
 - April 6 - First Congregational - Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00.
 - April 7 - Grace Lutheran - Tre Ore Service at 12:00 noon.
 - April 7 - First Congregational - Good Friday Service at 6:00.
- ❖ The flowers on the altar for this morning's worship service are donated by Deborah Butler.
- ❖ For all those who wish to help plan our Church Family Reunion and 50-Year Member Celebration, please use the sign-up sheet in the middle hall.
- ❖ Feed A Family needs for March - Hamburger Helper (all flavors), cereal, canned ravioli and Spagettios, chicken noodle and tomato soups.
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards in the middle hall.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- Our Sunday worship services are live-streamed, shown on the Internet, as they are happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday services may be seen as part of the live-stream and recording.

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A unisex handicap-accessible restroom is located through the doors to your left as you exit the sanctuary. A ladies' room is near the Lockwood Street entrance. A men's room is in the middle hallway.  
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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 26, 2023

*We welcome people as they are,
share Jesus as He is, and serve
our community and the world in love.*



Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus
Part-Time Interim Pastor: *Reverend Jon Gougeon*
Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*
Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*
Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Live-stream Technician: *Brayden Broad*
Office hours: 9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday – Thursday
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