

# Welcome, All Worshipers

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

“Pain is a passion of the soul that nurtures our maturity.” ~Aristotle

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

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BILL DEMPSEY, LAY READER

**\*OPENING HYMN: #25 – O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST** VERSES 1-4

*THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.*

## \*Call to Worship

Leader: We have gathered here this morning to worship God.

**All: We have come here seeking insight, community, inspiration and comfort during difficult times.**

Leader: We have come here to open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our midst.

**All: We have come to offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives, and to ask God's help as we face challenges, suffering and loss.**

Leader: We come with expectation, that in God's presence we may know ourselves and one another, and be truly at home and at peace in the world.

## \*Prayer of Confession

**All: Wise and powerful God, you have given us your life and truth to guide us through confusion, yet we have relied instead on our human wisdom and have lost our way. You offer to share our burdens and give us your strength, yet we trust in our own efforts and find ourselves exhausted. Bring us back into your presence, O God; overcome our separation from one another and from you. By your Word and Spirit, fill us with the gifts that equip us to meet life's demands, that we may be your people in the world and live in the confidence and joy of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**\*LENTEN SONG OF PRAISE: AS THE DEER** (SEE INSERT)

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**SCRIPTURE: LUKE 13:1-9**

**ANTHEM: WINTER LULLABY**

**CHOIR**

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**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**\*HYMN: #438 – WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER** ALL VERSES

*THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.*

**SERMON: WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN**

**REV. EUGENE BACON**

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER  
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: #472 – PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND** ALL VERSES

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**\*BENEDICTION**

**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.**

Minister: And the blessing God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. 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.**

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Postlude

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

Lay Reader: **Bill Dempsey**  
Altar Guild: **Nancy Wedge**  
Fellowship Hosts: **Beth & Megan Petty** and **Ron & Lynn Borke**

Live Stream Operators: **Jay Kettler**  
and **Lynn Borke**

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 20, 2022

## This Week's Calendar

Sunday	March 20	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday	March 22	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Wednesday	March 23	1:15 p.m.	Mysticism Class

### Announcements:

- ❖ Please be sure to sign the care letter for the John and Laura Caplis family and to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.
- ❖ Next Sunday, March 27, is "One Great Hour of Sharing" Sunday in the United Church of Christ. The Covid-19 pandemic, wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes and flooding have ravaged communities in the United States and worldwide, leaving families and communities in desperate need of assistance. OGHS envelopes are available to submit your offerings, or you may drop off or send your check to the church office (payable to First Congregational Church with note "for OGHS") anytime this or next month. Thanks for your help!
- ❖ This week's Lenten Challenge -- No desserts or sweet snacks.
- ❖ Reminders:
  - Please call or email the office before March 31 to order Easter flowers. Your order may be made in memory of, or in honor of a loved one. Tulips, hyacinths and daffodils cost \$17, and Easter lilies cost \$20.
  - If you're interested in joining the prayer group, please contact the office or add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.
  - Please call or email the church office if you know of someone who would appreciate a care letter.

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



Transitional Ministers: *Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case (Pastor Emeritus)*  
and *Reverend Eugene Bacon*

Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*

Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*

Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*

Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

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## Scripture Reading

### Luke 13:1-9

**13** At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup>He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"