

SERVICE OF PRAYER

During Lent, we have the opportunity to lift our prayers in light as well as in words. When invited, those who wish to may come forward and mark their prayers by lighting a candle. Should you desire to communicate your prayers in words to the congregation, index cards are provided in the pews for you to write a prayer on. Place the card in the baskets on the candle table, and they will be added to the prayer bulletin board in Chidley Hall. During the prayer time, we will sing "Jesus, Remember Me" as our prayer response (please see white insert).

*CLOSING HYMN *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*
Black-covered New Century Hymnal 23

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION (remain standing please) Rev. Will

POSTLUDE *Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless-Chorale* Michael Burkhardt

PH indicates Pilgrim Hymnal (red)
NCH indicates New Century Hymnal (black)
*Those who are able please stand

Head-sets for the hearing impaired & large print bulletins are available from the deacons. We encourage you to use the nametags available in the vestibule.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Today's Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Stanley Hart by Isabel, Carolyn, and Russell Hart.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN WINCHESTER, UCC

21 Church Street Winchester, MA 01890 781-729-9180

An Open and Affirming Congregation

The Congregation, Ministers to The World

Rev. William Burhans, Lead Pastor

Rev. Judith B. Arnold, Associate Pastor

Ms. Kathleen Zagata, RN, MS, CS, Minister of Cong'l Health & Wellness

Ms. Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Mr. Ben Pulaski, Minister of Faith Formation: Children & Youth

Mr. Jeffrey Mead, Organist

Mr. Bradley Ross, Sexton

Tyler Campbell, Assistant Sexton

Sarah Marino, Office Manager

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Orth, Pastoral Counselor (Affiliate)

FCCW www.fcc-winchester.org; MA Conference www.macucc.org; Nat'l UCC www.ucc.org
first.congregational@verizon.net



First Congregational Church in Winchester

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 6, 2016

Words for meditation and preparation: "I hope that one day you will have the experience of doing something you do not understand for someone you love."
Jonathan Saffran Foer

GATHERING MUSIC *O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig (S. 656)* J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Judy Arnold

A MOMENT OF SILENCE/PASSING THE PEACE

PRELUDE *Little Partita for Lent, vs. 2* James Woodman (b. 1957)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Joseph Fort Newton) Ben Pulaski

As flowers turn their faces toward the sun,

As rivers seek their freedom in the sea,

So our hearts turn to God in the ancient adoring habit of our race.

May the Holy Spirit breathe upon us,

**that in the warmth of God's love our minds may open to wisdom
and beauty and the clear vision of what is good and true.**

And may our fairest visions of mercy, love, and justice, be so real,
so commanding that all that is within us shall rise up and follow!

Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Come, Come, Whoever You Are*

T: nach Mevlana Rumi (1207-1273)

M: Lynn Adair Ungar

Come, come, who-e-ver you are, wan-derer, wor-shiper, lo-ver of lea-ving.
Ours is no ca-ra-van of de-spair. Come, yet again come.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Kathleen Zagata

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (adapted from Joseph Fort Newton)

**Lord if we have failed of what we knew was good or brave or kind,
if we have turned aside from a hard task, or left anyone to fall under the load
we might have lifted, forgive us, O Lord.
Our lives are low-vaulted and troubled at times,
only broken echoes of what they ought to be.
Live in us more richly, we humbly pray**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS & LORD'S PRAYER

Through the gift of the Creator, the love of Christ and the embrace of the Holy Spirit we are forgiven and invited to know again that the image of God is what is deepest in us. Let us live out of that image for the sake of the entire created world and pray in the words of Jesus...

**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 sins
as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

*AN ACT OF PRAISE

The Gloria Patri

PH 513

(Please use words that are most meaningful to you)

**Glory be to the Creator and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;
World without end, amen, amen.**

TIME FOR THE YOUNG

Ben Pulaski

(Afterwards, the children are invited to leave with the teachers for church school.)

THE CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Judy

Offertory Anthem

Lamb of God

German Chorale, 1540

arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955)

Text by Nicolaus Decius, 1531, tr. Arthur T. Russell

Lamb of God most holy, who on the cross didst suffer,
patient, still and lowly, thyself to scorn didst offer.

Our sins by thee were taken, or hope had us forsaken.

Have mercy on us, O Jesu.

Doxology

(Please use words that are most meaningful to you)

NCH 780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Judy

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Psalm 32

Rich Crawford

Response

Unison

Antiphon: Emma Lou Diemer, 1994

Stead - fast love sur - rounds those who trust in God.

Sung Refrain: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:11-32

Michelle Crawford

SERMON

"The Prodigal Father"

Rev. Will Burhans

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and help us show our love for You in how we live our lives. AMEN

People We are Praying for...

<u>Names</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Bradford Swing	for healing
Ken Barclay	for healing
Rev. Jena Roy	for healing
Jessica Brand	for healing
Rev. Janet Dorman, previous Associate Pastor	for healing

Please let the Deacons or Ministry Team know if you have someone to add or remove from this list.

Tuesdays with Jesus: February 9 - March 22

6:30-7:00 PM Centering Prayer

7:00-8:00 PM Breaking Bread and reading scripture

Come join us for a time of prayer, conversation and a simple meal together each Tuesday during the season of Lent. Come to just the centering prayer time or just the mealtime or come to both. Come every Tuesday or whichever Tuesday works best for you. Come as you are and support your own ongoing prayer practice or learn a new one. Questions, comments, enthusiasm? Contact Will Burhans (iwillb@fcc-winchester.org or 781-729-9180) and/or Jena Roy (jenaroy@aol.com or 617-480-2558).

New-Comers Inquiry Session (NCIS) is Today

We are holding a 45-minute session immediately following worship today, in the Palmer Room for anyone interested in church membership. This month's session is focused on meeting one another and learning something of our denomination, the UCC. You are welcome whether you are a "new-comer" or not. Child-care and snacks are provided!

FCC Monthly Men's Group, Tonight 7:30-9 PM, Palmer Room

All FCC men and their guests are welcome. We discuss matters that are personal and spiritual. Pot-luck beverages or snacks are welcome but not expected. Questions to chris.noble@yahoo.com

Church Events This Week (March 6-13)

SUNDAY	10:00	AM	Worship Service: Fourth Sunday of Lent
	10:00	AM	J2A Class - 9th & 10th Grades
	10:00	AM	Rite 13 7th & 8th graders
	10:15	AM	Stepping Stones (Church School)
	11:30	AM	NCIS New Comers Inquiry Class
	1:00	PM	Girl Scouts
	4:00	PM	Girl Scouts
	7:30	PM	FORUM (High School)
	7:30	PM	Men's Group
MONDAY	7:15	PM	The Carilloneers
TUESDAY	6:30	PM	Tuesdays with Jesus
	7:30	PM	Boy Scouts
	7:30	PM	Mission & Outreach Ministry
WEDNESDAY	8:30	AM	Men's Coffee & Conversation
	10:00	AM	Ministry Team Meeting
	10:00	AM	FAN Toddler Playgroup
	6:30	PM	Health Ministry Meeting
	7:00	PM	Bible Study
	7:30	PM	Facilities Ministry
	7:30	PM	Personnel Ministry
THURSDAY	7:30	PM	Choir Rehearsal
SATURDAY	9:00	AM	Choir Rehearsal
SUNDAY	Daylight Savings Time Begins		
	10:00	AM	Worship: Fifth Sunday of Lent
	10:00	AM	J2A Class - 9th & 10th Grades
	10:00	AM	Rite 13 7th & 8th graders
	10:15	AM	Stepping Stones (Church School)
	11:30	AM	Outreach 11th Hour
	4:00	PM	Girl Scouts
	4:00	PM	Sounds of Grace
	7:30	PM	FORUM (High School)

Bible Study
Ever Feel like Everything is Against You?????

Come to the Second Wednesday Bible Study and you'll feel much better. We are reading the Book of Job. Job has the familiar experience of facing loss and turning to the heavens to ask why. His friends are sure they know why – he must have done something to deserve it. Did he? *Come on Wednesday, March 9th*, and find out. The Second Wednesday Bible Study is informal, informational and inspirational. No prior knowledge is assumed – neither is certainty about your beliefs or the Bible. What is assumed is that you will get to know the person sitting next to you in the pew and the Bible a little better. We meet in the Health Ministry office from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30. Join us.

Easter Lilies and Tulips

You are invited to donate a chancel Easter plant as a memorial or as a gift. Plants will be distributed to our shut-ins following the worship service on **Easter Sunday, March 27**.

The cost of plants is \$20.00 each.

All orders are due by March 20

I wish to purchase _____plants, which will be

_____In memory of_____ In honor of (please check as appropriate)

Given by _____

Please return this form with a check payable to First Congregational Church, with memo "flowers" to the church office, or place it in an offering plate in an envelope marked "Easter plants"

JESUS, REMEMBER ME

Ostinato Response

Mixed Voices

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.