



**The "Red Door" Church  
First United Presbyterian Church  
381 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820  
Third Sunday in Lent  
10 AM - Sunday, March 23, 2025**

Jim Mullaney, Liturgist  
Jean Giuda, Guest Musician  
Mike Jones, Director of Music and Organist  
Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Walton-Leavitt, Pastor

**THE LITURGY**  
Order of Worship

**\* - You are invited to stand.**

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**SENTENCES OF MEDITATION**

"Empathy is the starting point for creating a community and taking action.  
It's the impetus for creating change." - Max Carver

**PRELUDE**

*Love Divine, My Father's World*

*John Dundel*

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**, everyone, to this time of worship. We are delighted to have you with us this morning! We are here to praise God and to enjoy one another's fellowship as we serve both God and our neighbor.

**In-person worship** is in the Sanctuary. Face masks available.

**OR, join us online or by phone** using Google Meet.

Every Sunday -- Same Link: [meet.google.com/viu-hpxa-mjg](https://meet.google.com/viu-hpxa-mjg)

By Phone: +1 301-857-2390 // PIN: 931 769 968#

For Tech Support: Please send a note in the CHAT box to Brandie, our Social Media Usher, OR text or email her at (916) 203-2962 or [connerisnotin@gmail.com](mailto:connerisnotin@gmail.com)

**As always -- all are welcome. Invite a friend to join us!**

**See Calendar at end of the worship portion of this bulletin.**

**Let us now prepare our hearts for worship by listening to the Introit.**

**INTROIT** (Choir)

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

*Temple/Fedak*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive reading Isa 55, Matt 5:6, Ps 63:7)

Liturgist

Leader: Everyone who thirsts:

**People: Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent so that you may live.**

Leader: All who are hungry for righteousness:

**People: Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent so that you may live.**

Leader: All who need the help of God:

**People: Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent so that you may live.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Liturgist

Let us pray.

God of infinite goodness, throughout the ages you have persevered  
in claiming and reclaiming your people as they have strayed away.

Sometimes it is easier to complain  
than to face that which we are complaining about.

Sometimes it is easier to give up and walk away  
instead of addressing the problem.

Sometimes we just don't have the energy or the direction to give  
to all the hurt and anxiety and chaos around us.

Sometimes it is easier to step or walk away because  
we don't always know the right way to turn or to act.

Renew for us your call to repentance,  
surround us with witnesses to aid and guide us in this chaotic journey,  
and grant us the time to be nurtured -- to be refreshed and to be strengthened.

We want to make a difference in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. And let all the people say: **Amen.**

<b>All are invited to sing Hymn No. 435 – <i>There's a Wideness in God's Mercy</i></b>
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\* **GTG No. 435**                      ***There's a Wideness in God's Mercy***                      *F. Faber/arr J Röntgen*

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.**

**There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.**

**There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.**

**And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.**

**WORD**

<b>Please join me in reading our Prayer of Illumination. [PAUSE] <i>Let us pray...</i></b>
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**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** *(in unison)*

Liturgist

**We seek you in your word, O God, as though we are searching for water  
in a dry and weary land.**

**By the power of your Holy Spirit, may this word be to us a rich feast,  
satisfying the soul. Then with our mouths, we will praise you;  
and with our lives, we will bless you, our Host and our Hope. Amen.**

**CONVERSATION with the CHILDREN**

**OLD TESTAMENT:** Isaiah 55:1-9 *(page 685/OT in pew Bibles)*

Liturgist

<b>This is the Word of the Lord. [PAUSE] <u>ALL:</u> Thanks be to God.</b>
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**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** based Luke 13:1-9 (*page 76/NT in pew Bibles*)

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*from the PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith*

Leader: We trust in Jesus Christ... calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

**People: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to  
serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, Come, Lord Jesus!**

**\* GTG No. 308**

***O God in Whom All Life Begins***

*Daw/English melody*

**O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,  
bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.  
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;  
deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.**

**Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts  
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts.  
So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your name  
that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.**

**Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care;  
so bind us in community that we may risk and dare.  
Be with us when we gather here to worship, sing, and pray,  
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

***Health & wholeness:*** On-going: Mike J; Rev. Ernie Varga; Jorah (*Yvie & Cuyle's son*); Debbie A; Scilla/ Mack (*Linda's relative/ friend*); Tracy (*Elaine B's friend*); Alysa (*Larry's friend*); Annya W (*Vivian's daughter*); Sharon D (*John B's sister*); Brenda (*Nadine's relative*); Antoinette (*Barb's friend*); Stuart/Allen (*Brandie's relatives*); Emma (*Jan's friend*); Alfred/ Billy & Son/ Michael (*Paul R's friends/ relatives*); Wyatt (*toddler*); John/Tim/Steve/ Grady/Joe/ Peg/Tina/Paul (*Jones' friends/ relatives*); Grace (*Goble's grandchild*)

***Homebound/Rehab/Managed Care:*** Judy C (*and Dick, her primary caregiver*)

***Grieving:*** All those who are missing loved ones.

***Traveling mercies*** for all those on the move this season – near and far.

***In Presbytery:*** First Presbyterian Church, Delhi, Pastor James Tyrrell and the Session

***In our community and country:*** Warming Station guests – and staff.

Hate Speech: Change hearts of those who promote hate -- and comfort victims of it.

Gun Violence in our country: Pray for victims, perpetrators – and solutions.

***In the World:*** Prayers for *shalom* – peace, justice, and healing in the world.

Lives torn apart by hostilities: Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Sudan and places in conflict.

Climate change concerns and disasters, past and pending...

World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*debts*) (GTG page 35)*[A time of silence may follow each intercession.]*

Let us pray.

God of generous provision,

we are grateful for the many ways you care for us  
and provide for the needs of your people.

Sometimes, though, we find ourselves in a dry and weary land . . .

Where we have misused and depleted creation,

drought and famine leave people and animals facing hunger and starvation.

O God, help us to care for your creation in ways that make it possible

for all to have enough food and water -- life, verdant and abundant.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a dry and weary land . . .

In places torn apart by war, where cities and towns are reduced to rubble;

where human lives have been destroyed and deformed.

Restore in us -- and in the world's leaders --

the will and determination to end of war and to begin a renewed sense of justice.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a dry and weary land . . .

When we are lost -- sad and weighed down with regret or grief;

when we are tired or sick in body, mind, or spirit.

O God, provide water in the desert to revive us for the long haul.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the rich feast of your presence . . .

We celebrate a new beginning in our lives: a new job -- a new relationship --

a new life -- a new day of sobriety -- a second chance.

O God, we give thanks to you for this new blessing in our lives.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the rich feast of your presence . . .

We enjoy the relief of forgiveness given and received;

we enjoy a breach in walls of division when our hearts are enlarged

and our own vision is broadened by new understanding.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the rich feast of your presence . . .

We give thanks for the gift of healing after injury or illness;

for laughter that bubbles up to replace our tears;

for hope that spills its soothing light over the darkness of our despair.

O God, we thank you for the gift of wholeness and resurrection promised to all

through Jesus the Christ who taught us to pray saying:

**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;****and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.****For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**\* **GLORIA PATRI** (GTG No. 581)

Creatorex

**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, Amen.**

**MISSION EMPHASIS: One Great Hour of Sharing** (see insert-*Repair the Breach*)

**OGHS donations:** Put in a fish bank (*collected late April*) – or by cash or writing a check payable to FUPC (*marked OGHS*) for the Sunday offering or mailed to church -- or at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/oghs/>

**OFFERING of TITHES AND GIFTS**

Disciples of Jesus, children of God, *Isa. 55:2*  
 we often spend our money on that which is not true bread,  
 and labor toward things that will never satisfy.

In our offering, we give to things that are of God:  
 bread for the hungry -- good news for those who are oppressed --  
 the ministries of the church that welcome strangers -- sons and daughters alike.  
 We bring before God a portion of all that God has so freely given to us.

**OFFERTORY** (Choir) *Dear Lord and Savior of Mankind*

*Whittier/Maker*

Tithe and Offering Options:

Sanctuary: Offering plates are near the exit doors.

- U.S. Post to FUPC at 2 Walling Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820
- QR Code (*Quick Response Code*): This is our unique code →
- Vanco Mobile Faith app can be downloaded on your Smartphone. Type in "Oneonta" to find our church.
- Computer: Use this link to access our online giving portal without the Smartphone Vanco app: [FUPC Donation Page](#)
- Bill Pay: Use your bank's online bill pay system
- Electronic funds transfer: Set up from your savings or checking account

**PRAYER of DEDICATION of our GIFTS**

Let us pray.

God of wilderness and Promised Land, in days of want and in days of plenty --  
 you have been with us.

By these gifts we now share -- may others know of your providence and care.

Send us -- not only our offerings, but our very selves --  
 to console and comfort -- to lift up and reach out --

to listen and sit beside your children everywhere at the one Table you have set.

By the leading of Christ our Savior, we come. And let all the people say: **Amen.**

**\* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You!

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: All are invited to exchange signs of Christ's peace and reconciling love.

**\* GTG No. 306 (vs. 1-3)**

***Blest Be the Tie that Binds***

*Fawcett/Nageli*

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.**

**The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

**Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.**

**Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**

**We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**

## **SENDING**

### **\* BLESSING AND CHARGE**

May the mercy of God ground us -- the love of Christ take root in us --  
and the Holy Spirit grow in us -- that we may repent and live with empathy.

The Scriptures urge us to shake off the complacency that can overtake us;  
to seek God as people in a dry and weary land seeking water;  
and to bear fruit in our daily lives that contributes to God's justice and love.

### **POSTLUDE**

*Wayfaring Stranger*

*arr Joseph M Martin*

### **TODAY**

Lectionary: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

**9:00 AM – Choir Rehearsal** in Sanctuary.

**10 AM Morning Worship.**

**11:00 AM – Lenten Soup / Hospitality Time** in social hall (*weekly*)

If you would like to provide soup or dessert during Lent,  
please sign up in the social hall or call Rebecca at 607-432-2840.

**11:15 AM - Church School** in classrooms (*weekly*)

**Thank you** to all who assisted with our first Spring  
Cleaning to declutter the basement!

**Until 8:00 PM – National Memorial AIDS Quilt** is in  
Hunt Union at SUNY Oneonta. All are welcome.

### **THIS WEEK**

**All week:** Aiello Paint Co. repairing and painting the Upper Room walls through April 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Canstruction structures made of cans of food by local organizations is at Southside Mall.  
Hunger Coalition organizes distribution of cans to local food pantries.

**Tuesday – 1:00 PM – Chain Gang** in social hall.

**Thursday - 12:00 to 5:30 PM -- National Faith + Climate Forum** watch party at First PC  
(65 Pioneer St., Cooperstown). Join discussions and workshops about the intersection  
of faith and environmental action. Register at <https://nationalfaithandclimateforum.org>

**Friday - 7:00 PM – FUP Book Club** meets in Blue Room to discuss Memory of Water: A Novel by Emmi Itäranta. All are welcome.

#### **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**SUNDAYS 10:00 AM – FUPC**

**10:00 AM – ORPC**

**11:00 AM – Quakers**

**TUESDAYS 5:30 PM – ORPC Bible**

**7:00 PM – AA Big Book**

**FRIDAYS 6:30 PM AA (men's group)**

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 30<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Lectionary: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**10 AM Morning Worship.** Liturgist: Rebecca LaBarr; Conversation with Jan Andrews

Please notify Pastor Walton-Leavitt at 607-242-8184 (cell) or [cynuff@aya.yale.edu](mailto:cynuff@aya.yale.edu)  
OR Carol Sprague, Church Secretary, at 607-432-7520 or [reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com](mailto:reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com)  
in case of illness or need of pastoral care.