

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Meditation: “My darkness has been filled with the light of intelligence, and behold, the outer day-lit world was stumbling and groping in social blindness.” Helen Keller

ORGAN PRELUDE

[We request that the chimes be the signal for a time of quiet meditation before the service]

A MOMENT OF GREETING

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

***OPENING HYMN NO. A-15** *Lift High the Cross*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Passing of the Lord’s Peace

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Psalm 23)

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.

It is you, Lord, who makes me lie down in green pastures;

It is you who leads me beside the still waters.

You restore my soul and guide me in paths of righteousness for your name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

All: Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in your house, O Lord, forever.

INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER

Almighty God, for whom the morning star shines, let us come into Your presence with singing and praise, for You are our very present help, our refuge and our strength. Speak to us through songs and stories, and remind us you are always there for us, even when we do not call Your name. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught his disciples 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 glory forever. Amen.*

LET THE CHILDREN COME

[After this, FCC KIDS may go to their classes.]

ANTHEM *Wood Hath Hope* Foley

SCRIPTURE READING John 9: 1-17 NT 125

SERMON “Learning to See Again”

OFFERTORY

Anthem *God So Loved the World* Stainer

*Doxology - No. 44

Offertory Prayer

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN NO. A-4** *It Is Well With My Soul*

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 198** *Jesus Remember Me*

***POSTLUDE**

*Those who are able, please stand

Visitors - We welcome you to our church fellowship and hope you will come again. We invite you to sign the *Friendship Pad* that is passed in the pew. There are many new faces in our congregation; we encourage those with name tags to please wear them.

Please turn off your cell phones.

Please note! Print-outs of the day’s sermon are available. Please speak to a Deacon.

Greeters are Jan Goodell & Nancy Hussey.

Ushers are Grace & Susan Day and Eleanor Engstrom.

Lay reader is Cynthia DiMestico.

Flowers on the altar-table are given by Martha Asendorf in celebration of her sons and their wives: Eben & Victoria (Ivanova) and Ove & Kathleen (Carr).

Deacons for the service are Reed Hamilton & Ed Jackson.

Jr. Deacon is Declan Norris.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It’s time to order the **Easter Lilies** which will grace our sanctuary on Easter, April 9. Price is \$15; Deadline to order - March 29 Either tell, call, or email Martha in the office to let her know you’d like to give a lily. They will be available for taking on Easter Sunday. Those not taken will be given to those in our church in local care facilities.

One big question that is on many lips is: **“Will there be a Rummage Sale this year?”** YES – there will be! The sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be couple of changes from past years, but the one thing that won’t change is we will need volunteers during the week before. Be sure to check the April issue of *The Messenger* and future bulletins for specifics, but, for now...Save the date!

FCC Kids

FCC Kids will start in the sanctuary and listen to Pastor Jonathan Drury’s message.

Next, we will all meet in the lower lobby and kids will break off into their groups. Grades K-5 will go to the MOVIE workshop and finish watching a movie about the Easter story with a good Palm Sunday scene or play *Bible Basketball*. Grades 6-8 will meet in the Teen Room to have a discussion titled “John the Baptist – the Holy Spirit. God’s Promise to Stand Strong.”

The Service Center needs...

Now more than ever, the Service Center could use our help to ensure that client families receive the groceries they need in the coming weeks. The Service Center order from the Greater Boston Food Bank has been reduced because of high demand and supply chain issues. In addition, the SNAP (food stamps) benefits have been reduced as of the first of March. Because of this, the Outreach Committee will publish two items from the Service Center’s grocery list each week in our Sunday bulletin with the hope that you will bring the list with you when you do your shopping and add an item or two for our neighbors in need. You may drop them off directly at the Service Center or place them in one of the barrels at the church located in either the narthex or Fellowship Hall lobby.

Thank you! Your Outreach Committee

This week the Service Center is asking for: brown rice & apple juice.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Mon., Mar. 20	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
Tues., Mar. 21	9:00 a.m.	Prayer Group
	9:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	10:00 a.m.	Friendly Circle
	10:30 a.m.	Mahjong
Wed., Mar. 22	10:00 a.m.	Outside Playtime
Thurs., Mar. 23	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir
Sat., Mar. 25	10:00 a.m.	Children's Clothing Project

NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday we will accept our annual **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, April 2	Palm Sunday and John Rutter's <i>Requiem</i>
Thursday, April 6	Maundy Thursday Office of Tenebrae & Holy Communion
Sunday, April 9	Easter Sunday with Holy Communion

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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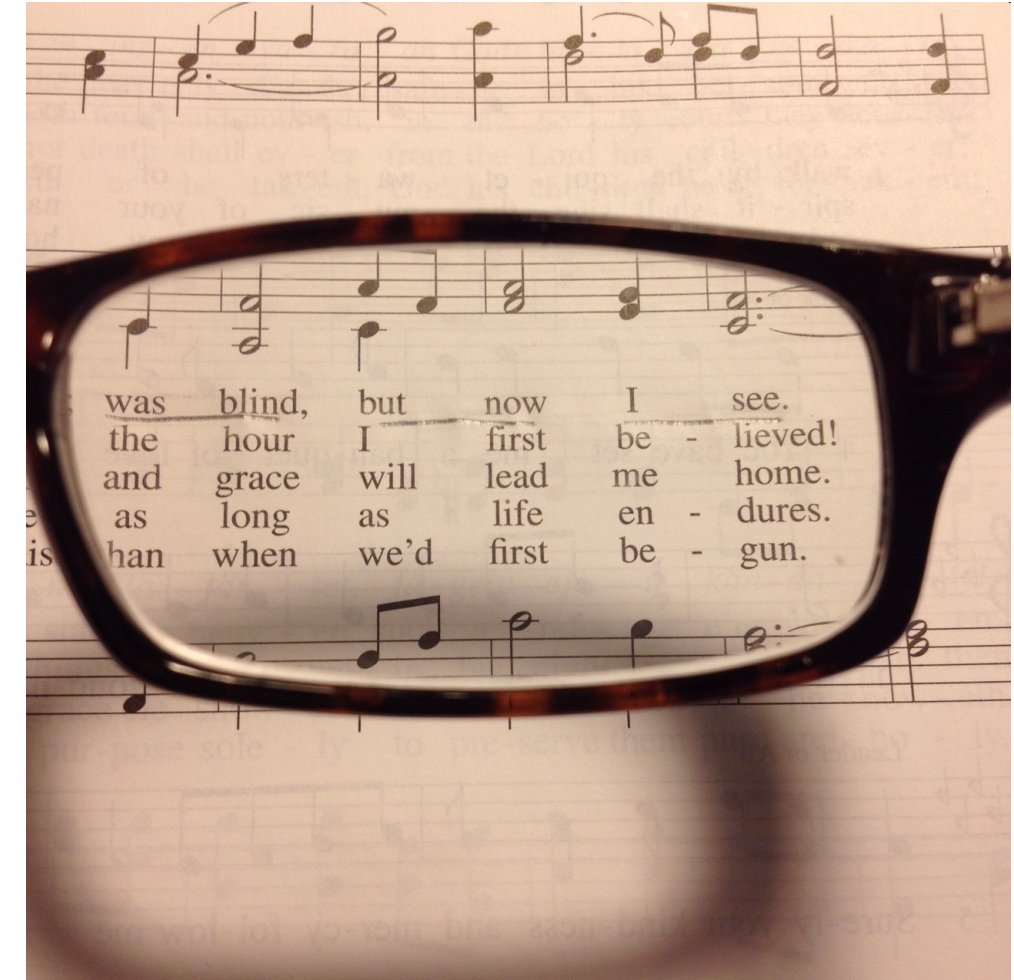
Please check out our website!
www.firstcongregationalfalmouth.org
or use your phone to scan the QR code!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of Falmouth, Massachusetts of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, March 19, 2023

10:00 a.m.

LENT IV



We welcome all who are joining us in worship this morning. Nursery care is available throughout the service - please speak to an usher. Children and youth in FCC KIDS will leave the service after the children's message. If you would like to share a prayer of joy or concern, we invite you to write them down on the podium outside the sanctuary entrances. During the *Moment of Greeting* we invite everyone to fill out the fellowship pad and pass the pad down your pew and back again.

REV. JONATHAN DRURY, Minister