



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**First Sunday in Lent**

**February 18, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**In Person & Live Streamed**



*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be given to you as well.*

*~Matthew 6:33*

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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*\*Please stand if able. **Bold** denotes unison response.*

**CHIMES**

Karen Needham

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Those wishing to make a brief announcement are asked to be in the front pews at the start of the announcement period. Prayer request cards may be found on the tables at the back of the church.*

**PRELUDE**

*My Savior's Love*

Lloyd Larson

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lent invites us to examine our lives,  
seeking spiritual renewal and deepening our relationship with God.

**Lent leads us to the Cross,**

**where we reflect on the depth of God's sacrifice for us.**

Lent calls us to make choices.

Will we dismiss thoughts of darkness and step into the light of Christ?

**Let us embrace the love that led Christ to the cross.**

**May this Lenten season be a time of spiritual birth,  
growth, and deeper communion with God.**

**\*HYMN**

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

Pilgrim (red) 35

**\*GATHERING PRAYER & \*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Breathe on us, O Holy Spirit as we open our hearts to Your presence. During this season of Lent, we come seeking wisdom, transformation, and renewal. Help us shed the habits that bind us, and the fears that keep us in darkness. On our Lenten journey, guide us on the path of humility, atonement, and selfless love. Let us embrace Christ's light that dispels our doubts and reassures our convictions. May we carry our cross with courage, knowing that You bore the weight of the world for our sake. Let our hearts echo the words of John 3:16: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.***

**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**

*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.*

**OFFERING**

We now can participate in the act of giving. The gifts we offer are more than financial contributions; they are expressions of our faith, love, and commitment to God's work through our church. Please only give what you feel in your heart you can and then, do so with joyful hearts, knowing that every gift, irrespective of the amount, makes a difference. Thank you for your gift today. Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.



**OFFERTORY**



*Lead, Kindly Light*

Steven Warner

**\*Doxology**

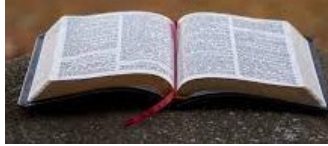
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God for all that love has done,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious Lord, we find joy in offering our time, talents, and money to meet the needs of others. As we offer our blessings back to You, may our gifts be acceptable in Your sight. We pray for Your blessing over this offering so we may move forward in serving others and bringing honor to Your name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*(The youth are excused for Church school)*

## SCRIPTURE



John 3:1-17 Pew Bible pg. 863

## SERMON

*A Lenten Transformation: From Darkness to Light*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Joys & Concerns  
Moment of Silence  
Pastoral Prayer*

## \*HYMN

*We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God*

Chalice (blue) 64

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Amen*

## \*POSTLUDE

*Lord, You Are My God*

Joseph Haydn (Benedictus)  
arr. Hal H. Hopson

*The Worship Is Ended ~Our Service Now Begins~*