



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 4, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.

In Person & Live Streamed



*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ~ Isaiah 58:6-7*

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

*Children will start in Church School returning for Holy Communion*

**CHIMES**

Karen Needham

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Brief announcements from the congregation are welcome. **Those wishing to make an 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**

*God Is In This Room*  
Senior Choir

Ruth Elaine Schram/John Parker

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

As we come before the Lord in worship,  
let us come in faith, confident that God is ever-present.

**Let us come in awe, for our God is majestic and powerful!**

Let us acknowledge that there is a Power beyond our own,  
that it is God who made us and not we ourselves.

**Let us come in celebration for through Christ we have life and light.**

This is a time for bringing ourselves just as we are into the presence of the Holy One.

**This is a time of praise, a time for lifting our hearts  
and voices in grateful thanksgiving to our Creator.**

**\*HYMN**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Pilgrim (Red) 363

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

**Holy Spirit come into our beings today and in all Your Creation tearing down the walls of prejudices. All Creation is part of Your family. What marvelous things You have done. One God, one people. With songs of grateful praise, we thank You for this blessing! The Lord is so merciful He touches all lives! Hallelujah. Praise the Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*The Lord's Prayer*

Chalice (blue) 307

## \*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

Let us open our hearts and join hands in ways we can nurture the growth of our faith and strengthen our community. Remember, even the smallest seed can grow into a mighty tree. With your help, we can lay the foundation for a stronger, more vibrant church that will continue to touch lives for generations to come. Let us now with grateful hearts receive our Sunday morning offering.



## OFFERTORY

*Bread for the World*  
Senior Choir



Bernadette Farrell

## \*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

Loving God, you call us to be instruments of Your love and hope in the world. May these gifts be used wisely by this church to further Your work in the world, spreading love, compassion, and justice. In Jesus' name, Amen

## SCRIPTURE



Exodus 3:7-10    Pew Bible pg. 44  
Galatians 3:23-28    Pew Bible pg. 947

SERMON

*Light Shines from The Dark Shadows of Oppression*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**



*Joys & Concerns  
Moment of Silence  
Pastoral Prayer*

**HYMN (seated)**

*Now We Come Before God's Presence*

Chalice (Blue) 410, vs. 1&4

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation

Prayer over the Elements

Serving of the Elements

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Gracious God, our hearts overflow with gratitude for the gift of communion.**

**We thank You for the spiritual nourishment and strength You have given us.**

**We thank You for the hope and joy You have instilled in our hearts.**

**May we live our lives in a way that reflects Your love, compassion, and grace.**

**With grateful hearts, we offer this prayer to You, O divine Creator.**

**\*HYMN**

*They'll Know We Are Christians*

Chalice (Blue) 494

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *May the Lord Bless You*

Senior Choir

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Allegro in B Flat*

George F. Handel

*The Worship is ended ~Our Service Now Begins~*