



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.

In Person & Live Streamed



Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.

~Mother Teresa

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

Appalachian Sunrise

Joseph M. Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

In our worship today we listen for Your voice, O God.

We yearn for the strength to embrace Your light.

As we gather in this sanctuary, let us shed distractions.

**Open our hearts to Your presence. May this Lenten Journey
lead us closer to You, our source of strength and hope.**

***HYMN**

Come, Thou Almighty King

Pilgrim (red) 246

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

Creator of all, open our hearts and minds to Your presence. May we be filled with Your compassion, inspiring us to reach out to those in need, offering a helping hand or a listening ear. Guide our steps, so that we may walk in the footsteps of the Good Samaritan. May we see the face of Christ in every person we encounter, offering them the dignity and care they deserve. Empower us, O God, to be instruments of Your love in the world. May our actions, however small, bring comfort, hope, and healing to those in need. We pray this in Your holy name, 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

Psalm 96:8 reads, *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. With grateful hearts for all our blessings from God, let us give back a portion asking God to bless our gifts. Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.*



OFFERTORY

Interlude in G Major

L. Mourian

*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 God, we ask that You bless this offering as it strengthens our capacity to serve You in serving others, Amen.

SERMON

The Road Less Traveled: A Journey of Compassion

SCRIPTURE



Luke 10:25-37 Pew Bible pg. 844

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Joys & Concerns
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer*

HYMN (seated)

This Is a Day of New Beginnings (v. 1&4)

Chalice (blue) 518

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer over the Elements

Serving of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, we give You thanks that You have accepted us into communion with Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. You have fed us, strengthened us and joined us together as heirs of Your eternal kingdom. Send us out now to do Your work, to serve our neighbors with joy and love, and to be Your faithful witnesses to the world. Amen

***HYMN**

Here I Am, Lord

Chalice (blue) 452

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen**

***POSTLUDE**

Courante

Georg Friedrich Handel

****All members of the church are asked to remain in the sanctuary after the service for the congregation's Annual Meeting that will follow immediately.*

Coffee hour will follow the meeting.

The Worship Is Ended ~ Our Service Now Begins ~