



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**March 17, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**In Person & Live Streamed**



*I am still far from being what I want to be, but with God's help I shall succeed.*

*~Vincent Van Gogh*

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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** *Londonderry Air (Danny Boy)* Traditional Irish Folk/Arr. Joseph M. Martin

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

How awesome is the God of all creation. We gather to share in our love of God.

**Lord, let your light flood into our hearts and spirits!**

May God's love and grace pour rays of comfort and hope onto a troubled world.

**Joy fills our lives when we center our hearts on Jesus Christ.**

Come, sing, and rejoice in the light of our Lord.

**Come, let us celebrate in our worship, bringing praise and honor to God.**

**\*HYMN**

*Morning Has Broken*

*Hymnal (red) #38*

**\*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.**

**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.*

**MISSION MOMENT**

Pat Stebbins, Brian's Angels

**OFFERING**

As we move into this time of offering, let's consider how our gifts can not only support the church, but also cultivate a spirit of generosity within ourselves. Your contribution, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.



**OFFERTORY**

*God Will Take Care of You* Stillman Martin/arr. Keveren

**\*Doxology**

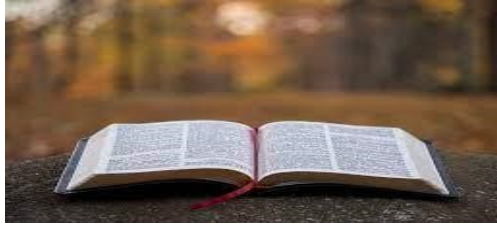
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God for all that love has done,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Almighty God, we offer these gifts with joyful hearts, knowing that they reflect Your generosity towards us. We dedicate them to the purpose You have for this church family. Guide our leaders in using these resources wisely to serve our community, share Your message of hope, and glorify Your name. May our giving inspire others to open their hearts and hands. We pray in Christ's name, Amen.

*(The youth are excused for Church school)*

## SCRIPTURE



Psalm 31:1-2,14-16,21-24

Luke 13:10-17

Pew Bible pg. 439

Pew Bible pg. 848

**SERMON**    *Faith Under Fire: Anchoring Your Faith in the Face of Opposition*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Joys & Concerns  
Moment of Silence  
Pastoral Prayer*

**\*HYMN**

*On Eagle's Wings*

*Chalice (blue) #77*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**    **Amen**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Flute Solo from Sonata in A*

Thomas Arne

***THE WORSHIP IS ENDED ~OUR SERVICE NOW BEGINS***