



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.

In Person & Live Streamed



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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** "Adagio", k. 356, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

**All: As we continue our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit,**

One: even into the uncomfortable places. In those forty days, and in that place,

**All: Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.**

One: As we seek to follow Jesus, we will be led,

**All: even into the uncomfortable choices. Jesus left the wilderness,**

One: faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

**All: As we continue on our path to faithfulness,**

**let us be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

**\*HYMN** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness New Century Hymnal 286

*Refrain: Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.*

*Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

*You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing, "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.*

*Refrain*

*You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law and a land; when they were confounded by their idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.*

*Refrain*

*You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still; and down in the city you called once again, when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.*

*Refrain*

*You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes, from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes, with bold new decisions your people arise.*

*Refrain*

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

*(Prayer by Christian author and artist, Jan Richardson)*

God of the journey, who calls us to travel with faith, who reminds us that we are dust yet breathes into us the breath of life, hear our prayer.

Bearer of the Sun, draw us into your heart of fire, that we may have light to uncover the unremembered stories and strength to endure their telling. Creator of the world, awaken us to the blessedness of the earth, that we may honor those who once dwelled along these paths that we now travel.

Spirit who hovered over the face of the deep, lead us to your life-giving waters, that we may give our tears to the depths and find refreshment and delight. Helper who breathes life into each new generation, surround us with the winds of your spirit, and may we hear with tenderness the stories that they bear.

This we ask in Christ's name and spirit, as we also pray together:

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.

SUNG RESPONSE: *Bless God, O My Soul*

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a sung response. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/2 time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff with a soprano clef. The lyrics are: "Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!". The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and ties. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

