

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

~ Third Sunday after Epiphany ~

January 24, 2016

WELCOME!

Who did you bring with you in your heart today? See that person in your mind's eye.

Picture that person whole, healthy, restored, reconciled.

God is at work in the person's life. Ask God to show you the role you may play.

PRELUDE	"Variations"	Mozart
	"Au Soir"	Widor
	"Sweet Hour of Prayer"	Koury
	"Children of the Heavenly Father"	Douglas

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAY IT FORWARD Al Newton

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

COMMISSIONING the PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE *(insert)*

***OPENING HYMN #2** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

***CALL to WORSHIP** Leanne Connolly

Leader: This day is holy to our Wise God!

Adults: We gather to listen to God's word, to discern God's will, to worship with God's people.

Leader: This day is holy to our Joyful God!

Children: We are members of Christ's body, Christ's family, Christ's church.

Leader: This day is holy to our Powerful God!

Adults: The Spirit of God is upon us, and we have been anointed to bring good news to all.

Leader: This day is holy to our Sweet God!

Children: May the words in our mouths and the thoughts in our hearts delight you, O God.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: You gather us from separate lives, Great God, to hear your word and respond to your revealing. You have appointed us for the work of your church. We seek your guidance, your wisdom, your way. Help us to perceive and understand, and to faithfully follow you as your people. Let us worship our Holy God!

***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.

The SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

Zachary James Cariboni

Parents: Raul and Krysta Cariboni

Sponsors: Matthew Cariboni, Abbey Sorrentino

Welcome

Questions of the Parents and Sponsors

Congregational Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Blessing the Water

Act of Baptism; Presentation of the Newly Baptized

Prayer for the Baptized

Leader: ... hear the baptismal prayers of the congregation:

People: Be with Zachary through the years, blessing his life, that he may grow in love for you. Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Presentation of Gifts

***HYMN to introduce Zachary #75 "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"**

(the children are released for Sunday School)

ANTHEM "At the River" A. Copland

SCRIPTURE New Testament: Luke 4:14-21 (p. 61)

SERMON "City of God (2)" Rev. Suzanne Personette

***HYMN** "City of God" *(insert)*

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

The LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Down By the Riverside" Traditional

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER of DEDICATION** (*unison*)

Bless, O Lord, these gifts and offerings, that they may be a sign of our intent to serve you. Use them and us to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, and bring wholeness and healing to all who are hurting and oppressed. If one of your people suffers, we all suffer; but if one of your people is honored, we all rejoice together, in your name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** #494 "They'll Know We Are Christians"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Jubilate" Wilson

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, because he has anointed us to bring **good news** to the poor.*

He has sent us to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. ~ based on Luke 4:18-19

***All who are able are invited to stand.**

Join us for coffee and conversation after the service in Fellowship Hall.

The flowers on the Communion Table are given in celebration of Karen and Karl Prewo's 50 years of marriage.

The flowers on the Marbletop Table are given in honor of Joanne Myer's 70th birthday by her husband Andy and her family.

*Greet your neighbor with a hug or handshake,
whichever is most comfortable for the two of you.*

In Our Ongoing Prayers...

Gregg Moffatt; Cindy Dubuque in her new job as the Campaign Manager of the Statewide Reaching Home Campaign to End Homelessness; **Linda Vogt**, friend of Marilyn Newton, diagnosed with kidney cancer; **those with upcoming surgeries**; the **hungry**; the **life of Martin Luther King, Jr.**; Linda Rentler, Debi Hockenberry's mother-in-law; Carol Brusa, Halene Fujimoto's friend; stricter gun laws; tolerance of religious diversity/skin color/sexual orientation; Terri Karr; David Hollister; Daniel Burnett-Pollock; Emmalee Watkins; Bess Howe; Dave Toolan; Lillian Morse; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer, Margaret Klukas; Dave Boucher; Joyce Smith; Gilmay Markunas and family; Pat Lazeren; Bobby Dwire; Warren Little; Tom Fitzgerald; Melinda Singh; Paul Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness; Ed Rockland; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Heidi Howie; Wendy Parker; Rachel Andrews; Carol Shea; Bobby Kelley; Nancy Bailey; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Michael Turner; Richard Brooke; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski

*New additions in **bold print***

~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

In an effort to keep the Sabbath holy, we would like to refrain from talking with church leaders about church business before or after worship. If you need to speak with someone, please contact them late in the day or in the coming week.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL FISCAL MEETING

following the Worship Service in Fellowship Hall

Junior Choir Rehearsal: 11:30 AM, PF Room

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Super Bowl Grinders: The Ways and Means Committee is taking orders today and next Sunday, January 31. Grinders may be picked up on February 7.

Fundraiser: The J*Walkrz are **selling FCCV pens** for only \$1 to help raise funds for the youth attending the National Youth Event at Disney this year.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Bible Study: Monday, January 25, 11 AM, Library

Mind and Spirit Support Group: Monday, January 25, 7 PM, Library

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, January 26, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Trustees: Wednesday, January 27, 6:30 PM, Library

Ladies Luncheon: Thursday, January 28, noon at Mitchell's Restaurant

Theology on Tap: Thursday, January 28, 6 PM at Mitchell's Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, January 28, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Search Committee: Thursday, January 28, 7:30 PM, Library

Support Group: Friday, January 29, 10:30 AM, Library

Bible Study: Friday, January 29, 6:30 PM, Library

Pairs and Spares: Saturday, January 30, 12:55 PM at Rave Theater, Buckland Hills for **Met Opera Live: Turadout**. Questions? Contact Kate Fowler (kfowler64@yahoo.com or 860-614-9747).

Please Note: There will not be a Potluck Lunch on Sunday, January 31.

Fat Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper: Tuesday, February 9, 5-6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall, sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee.

God and Me/God and Family: Any scouts in our congregation interested in participating in the God and Me or God and Family program this year, please contact Debi Hockenberry.

It's not too early to make **reservations** at **Silver Lake** for your youth. Check out the bulletin board in the hallway down from the Library for more information.

The youth will be having a **Tag Sale** on April 23. Donations may be dropped off the week of the 23rd. Please keep us in mind when you are Spring Cleaning! Thank you!

Pay It Forward: Last month, Susan Pilkons "Paid It Forward" to *Dreaming & Working Together*, an organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life and bring about sustainable change for the medically underserved population of Lima, Peru. If you would like to participate in Pay It Forward, place your name in the PIF basket in the Narthex or by the PIF sign near the Scrip-Your-All table in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to make a donation (any amount) checks (marked PIF in the memo) may be placed in the offering basket or in the PIF box in the Narthex near the stairs to Fellowship Hall.

Scrip-Your-All Update: We're off to a great start toward our 2016 goal of \$5500 (\$282 so far)! We hope you will continue to participate and if you are not participating, we hope you will consider doing so. Remember, you get the **full value** for any cards purchased, so it is win-win all around. Stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour for more information or check out our website (firstchurchofvernon.org/scrip-your-all).

Need a Name Tag? Stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour or email Kate Fowler (kfowler64@yahoo). Choose from three options - magnet, pin or clip. You can also include a hang tag if you belong to a board/committee. A \$3 to \$5 donation is asked but not required.

If you would like to become a member of FCCV, please speak with Rev. Robin, Rev. Suz or one of our Deacons. We'd like to schedule a New Member Class soon, as well as a New Member Sunday in which we receive new members! Thank you.

Coffee Mugs: The weather is getting colder. Need a new mug for the hot chocolate, coffee or tea that will keep you warm this winter? Stop by the Scrip-Your-All table today. Cost is \$10 and goes to support FCCV outreach.

Needed! Our shopping carts (located in the Narthex and Breezeway) are running low. Each month Board of Missions members alternate taking non-perishable food to the Soup Kitchen, part of the Cornerstone Foundation in Rockville and to the Hockanum Valley Community Council. Folks are also needed to help prepare meals at the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen. A sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall.

Baskets are desperately needed by Women's Fellowship. Donations may be left in the Women's Fellowship closet.

Evening Circle is **collecting items to help a Center Road family**. Items needed are pull-ups for a 4-year-old boy, winter boots for a 6-year-old girl, mittens for all three of the children aged 4 (boy), 6 and 9 (girls), any food items, children's toiletries (shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush) and gift cards for Target or Walmart.

The **Care Network** is offered by the Deacons as a helping hand during difficult times. If you are in need of a ride to church, the doctor, hospital, grocery store, etc., in need of meals or a visit, contact Jan Muro at 872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com or Sue Pilkons at 860-875-4122.

Reminder: FCCV records its Sunday worship services. These services are available for viewing on a one-week delay on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5, Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. Full length DVDs of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library.

Please Note: To request a visit with one of the pastors, please contact the Church Office at 860-875-7580.

City of God

by Dan Schutte

1. Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light.
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

**Refrain: Let us build the city of God.
May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our light and our love
Has turned the night into day!**

2. We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.
The One who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
A light for his people to set their hearts free.

Bridge (choir only):

God is light, in Him there is no darkness.
Let us walk in his light, his children one and all.

3. O comfort my people; make gentle your words.
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth.
O city of gladness, now lift up your voice!
Proclaim the good tidings that all may rejoice.