

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

March 1, 2015

Second Sunday in Lent ~ Holy Communion

PRELUDE “Prelude, Fugue and Variation” Franck
“I Love Thee” Ritter
“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” arr. Livingston

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL to WORSHIP** based on Psalm 63

Leader: O God, you are our God, we seek you

People: Our souls thirst for you

Leader: Our flesh faints for you

People: As in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life

People: Our lips will praise you

All: So we will bless you as long as we live.

***OPENING HYMN** #409 “I Hunger and I Thirst”

LENTEN WREATH LITURGY

Reader 1: On Sunday morning, for a brief space of time, we leave behind the world of home and work and school-the world where we have our lists of things to do, activities to participate in, tasks to complete. We come here this morning seeking something else. We come here seeking a shift-from the ordinary to the sacred, from doing to being.

Reader 2: I invite you to close your eyes. Let go of your list. Recall that it is the season of Lent, a time when God calls to us in a low, urgent voice. Listen. Jesus is being drawn to Jerusalem. Where is God calling you to go? What is God calling you to do?
(*Silent time.*)

Reader 1: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.
(*A candle is extinguished.*)

Reader 2: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, may we be open to your presence. Give us the strength to make the changes that are needed in our lives and the courage to take on the work of transforming the world. Amen.

SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

CALL to PRAYER

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION 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.

WORDS of INSTITUTION

BREAKING the BREAD and SHARING the CUP

(*Gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon. Please hold the elements until all are served.*)

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

Loving God, we thank you for refreshing our souls with this remembrance of your love. By your Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us out into the world to do your will, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

SCRIPTURE Mark 1:9-15

SERMON

Barbara Hesse

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Be Thou My Vision” M. Hayes

***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**

***CLOSING HYMN** #565 “If You Will Trust in God to Guide You”

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Wings of Faith” Broughton

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

Greeters: Board of Deacons

Coffee Hour: Board of Music

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

WELCOME to FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of VERNON!

We are glad you are here. It is our hope that you will encounter God here, experience the love God showed the world in Jesus, and be inspired to share that love with the world. If you are worshiping with us for the first time, please stop by our Welcome Table. There you will find a guestbook to sign and a welcome gift to take home with you. Let us know if we can be of service to you in any way, and come back again soon.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Men's Group: Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Bible Study: Tuesday, March 3, 11 AM, Library

Council: Wednesday, March 4, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Theology on Tap: Thursday, March 5, 6 PM, R House Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, March 5, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, March 6, 10:30 AM, Library

Mind + Spirit Support Group (MSSG): This support group is designed for those in our faith community who are challenged with mental health issues and for family and friends who need support. We will gather to support each other in a sacred, safe and confidential environment. This group is NOT a therapeutic session and is NOT intended to replace a person's medical or behavioral health provider and/or therapist. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month. Please contact Leanne Connolly (Lconnolly1825@gmail.com or 860-462-4694) if you have any questions. Our next meeting - Monday, March 8 from 7-8:30 PM in the Library.

Our Sunday School will be "**Reading to Feed**" this Lenten season. Each child will come home with a little bank and a pledge sheet to earn money for reading to give to Heifer International. We are going to help fill an "Ark" of animals to help folks in need around the world. If you see a Sunday School-aged kid ask, "Can I sponsor you?" They'll be happy you did!

Applications for the **Les Childs Music Scholarship** may be picked up in the Church Office. Completed applications must be submitted to the Board of Music no later than April 15, 2015. Questions? Contact musicatfirstfccv@gmail.com.

Ongoing Sunday School Mission: We're collecting pre-packaged, non-perishable snacks and juice boxes for kids in Vernon who may not have a snack when they get home from school. Donations may be left in the box outside the DCE Office door.

Needed! The Board of Missions is in need of a few volunteers to help make lunch at the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen on the first Saturday of every month. Please contact Emily Westerberg if you are interested. Thanks!!

A **Crib Room** is available upstairs near the balcony for **parents with infants up to 12 months of age** where the worship service can be heard via intercom. Anyone with concerns about the Crib Room should contact Sally Sullivan, 871-1473. A staffed **Toddler Room**, located downstairs in the Kellogg wing, is open for **children 12 months to 3 years old.**

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Family and friends of Joel Covington on his death; **Mike Lazeren**, Pat Lazeren's son; Becky Burr; Deborah Liebl; Gilmay Markunas and family; Hal Cummings; Pat Lazeren; Margaret Klukas; Karen Rowell; Gail Brewer; David and Elizabeth Hollister; Jack Allen; Bobby Dwire; Warren Little; Frederick Burgess; Tom Fitzgerald; Melinda Singh; Joyce Smith; Bess Howe; Paul Westerberg; Michelle Darby; people struggling with mental illness; Debbie Chase; Sharon Lacey; Ed Rockland, Bettye Kramer's brother-in-law; Maggie and David Minnick; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Heidi Howie; Steve Bright; Pat Melville; Wendy Parker; Rachel Andrews; Christa Hockenberry; Cindy Madden; Carol Shea; Bobby Kelley; Susan Shimer; Nancy Bailey; Lillian Burnett; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; E.G. and Donna Harvin; Adeline McGee; Chantelle Fuller; Kim Burnham; Betty Worden; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Jeanine Uthgenannt; Michael Turner; Candy Buswell; Donna Peacock; Richard Brooke; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski

New additions in bold print

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 jmoze@hotmail.com or 872-1757 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.

Acolytes Needed! To all parents of Sunday School children...if your child would like to be an acolyte, please contact Delythe Kracke at DelytheK@yahoo.com or (860) 872-3004.

Name Tags: If you need a name tag, you can order it any Sunday during Coffee Hour or contact Jim Montlick (jamontlik@aol.com). You have a choice of a pin, magnet or clip. A donation of \$3-\$5 is suggested.

Cancellation of Church Services or Activities Due to Inclement Weather: Please watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to wfsb.com.

