

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

March 29, 2015

*Palm Sunday*

PRELUDE	“Meditation”	Saint-Saëns
	“The Palms”	Faure/Wells
	“Triumphal March”	Dubois
	“Palm Sunday”	Hughes

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL to WORSHIP

Steve Leary

Leader: Let us enter the city with God today,

**People: and sing hosannas to our king.**

Leader: Let us turn our backs on the powers that grasp and control,

**People: and open our hearts to the son of God riding on a donkey.**

Leader: Let us join his parade,

**People: surrounded by outcasts and misfits, the blind and the leper.**

Leader: Let us follow the one who brought freedom and peace,

**People: and walk in solidarity with the abandoned and oppressed.**

Leader: Let us shout for joy at Christ’s coming and join his disciples,

**People: welcoming the broken, healing the sick, dining with outsiders.**

Leader: Let us touch and see as God draws near,

**People: riding in triumph towards the cross!**

\*OPENING HYMN #191 “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!”

LENTEN WREATH LITURGY

**Reader 1:** We have gathered here, week after week, sharing a common quest for a deeper faith and a deeper experience of the divine. I invite you now to close your eyes and let go of the things that distract and concern you. Listen! The time is drawing near. Jesus is preparing to enter Jerusalem. How will we greet him? Will we follow him all the way to the Cross?

**Reader 2:** The power of Jesus is that he lived what he taught, even when it led to his death. He lived with an abiding awareness of God, radiating the light of God in all he said and did. But that light was too much for the world. There are forces today, as there were in ancient times that conspire to put it out. Where are we in this? What are we willing to risk to follow Jesus? *(Silent time.)*

**Reader 1:** As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of rejection and betrayal. *(A candle is extinguished.)*

**Reader 2:** Let us pray:

**All: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own pasts. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. 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.

TIME with the CHILDREN

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.

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “March” Guilmant

\*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

CANTATA “Behold the Lamb!”

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “All Glory, Laud and Honor” arr. Paxton

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

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

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Board of Music

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.

### **In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .**

The **family of Betty Worden** on her death; Phyllis Chase; Dillon and Tanner Peterson and family, friends of Christa and Ryan; Mike Lazeren; 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; 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*

### **TODAY'S ACTIVITIES**

**Easter Egg Hunt** after the Worship Service and before the Potluck Luncheon.

**Potluck Luncheon** following the Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring something to share.

### **THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

**Men's Group:** Tuesday, March 31, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**Support Group:** Friday, April 3, 10:30 AM, Library

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

#### **Maundy Thursday Service**

**Thursday, April 2, 7 PM in the Sanctuary**

#### **Easter Sunday, April 5**

#### **Sunrise Service, 6:30 AM**

Coffee, juice, muffins, etc. following in Fellowship Hall

#### **Worship Service, 10 AM**

**FCCV Kitchen Cleaning!** Tuesday, April 7 and Thursday, April 9 from 6-8 PM. Do you have an hour or two to help clean and organize? We'll be cleaning counters, cabinet fronts and organizing contents. A professional will be hired to clean the oven and stove and Dave Symonds has volunteered to wash and wax the floor when our cleaning is complete. Please bring a sponge (or two) and disinfectant cleaner. Questions? Contact Holly Boutwell (hollyboutwell@comcast.net or 860-872-6359 evenings (no voicemail).

**Please Note:** Due to Holy Week, **Church Council** will meet on Wednesday, **April 8** at 7 PM, not on April 1 as originally scheduled. Also, there will be **no Bible Study** on March 31 or April 7.

**Lasagna Dinner:** Saturday, April 11, 5:30 PM, hosted by the Ways and Means Committee.

**Mother/Child Banquet:** Wednesday, April 22, 6 PM. This popular, annual event is hosted by Women's Fellowship. This year, a dinner of pizza and salad will be served followed by a fun evening of Minute-to-Win-It challenges provided by the youth group. Please sign up on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board and bring a dessert to share.

Our Sunday School is "**Reading to Feed**" this Lenten season. Each child went 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 mgiordano2@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.

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**.

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.