

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

April 6, 2014

Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ Holy Communion

PRELUDE	“The Name of Jesus”	Lorenz
	“God So Loved the World”	Stainer
	“Interlude”	Young
	“Lord, Lift Me Up and Let Me Stand”	Keeney

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACOLYTES

***CALL to WORSHIP** (*responsive*) Karl Prewo

Leader: God is holy and transcendent,

People: Yet, God is among us.

Leader: God is unknowable, incomprehensible,

People: Yet, God desires to be known.

Leader: Where God is, there is love and life.

People: Where God is, there is grace and hope.

Leader: Where God is, anything is possible.

People: God is here!

***OPENING HYMN** #280 “God Is Here!”

LENTEN WREATH LITURGY

Reader 1: When we arrived this morning we entered into the normal rhythm of a busy church on a Sunday morning: friends greeting each other, choir members getting their robes, children bringing their energy and enthusiasm. Now that we are sitting together in the pews, I invite you to close your eyes...and consider the word “sanctuary.”

Reader 2: A sanctuary is a place set aside for sacred things. It is a place of refuge and protection. This room is a sanctuary. The season of Lent is a kind of sanctuary in time. One of the things Lent teaches is that you, too, are a sanctuary. There is inside you a place for sacred things, a place where God abides.

(Silent time.)

Reader 1: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of war and hostility in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Reader 2: Let us pray:

ALL: Loving God, we open our hearts to you. We invite you into our inmost being, only to find you are already there. Strengthen us in our quiet places and then lead us into the world to work for justice and peace. 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 John 11:1-45

SERMON

Rev. Meg Watson

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Enough (with Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus)” C. Tomlin

***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** #587 “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Firm in the Faith I Stand” Paxton

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

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 worshipping 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!

Greeters: Board of Deacons

Coffee Hour: Board of Finance

Deacons assisting with Communion: Jon Dunlap, Millie Oliphant, Karl Prewo, Cheryl Purnell, Judy Ramsdell, Bob Warner, Jim Wilson

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Eleanor Sweet, Tom Sweet's mother, dealing with cancer; Gerry Dyar; Jan Peacock; Julie, ex-daughter-in-law of Joanne and Andy Myer, suffering from stage 4 cancer; Nicole Cartier, Jim and Nancy Wilson's granddaughter; Bob O'Gara; Bonnie Brenner dealing with a recurrence of cancer; Heidi, Linda Dayton's friend; Carol Shea; Marge Salmon; Bobby Kelley, Kathy Bainbridge's brother; Stephen Kasevich; Will and Diane Livermore; Susan Shimer; Nancy Bailey; Joyce Smith; Sonja (Marlene) Mayhew; Lorrie Dobson; Ben Savage; Lillian Burnett; Debbie Chase; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; E.G. and Donna Harvin; Adeline McGee; Chantelle Fuller; Rev. Charlie Nichol's granddaughter Devon; Pat Lazeren; Gail Occhialini; Kim Burnham; Alan and Jayne Chesterton; Betty Worden; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Jeanine Uthgenannt; Michael Turner; Claudette Weingart; Jan Peacock; Candy Buswell; Rachel Meneses; Lois Montlick; Donna Peacock; Arianna Saegaert; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Ruth Woodcock and her daughter Sarah; Mike Swan; Deborah Costello; Richard Brooke; Stephen Volovski; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski; Bess Howe; Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs.

New additions in bold print

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Transformers Rehearsal: 11:20-11:40 AM, Choir Room. **Please Note:** This rehearsal will be brief due to the Board of Music meeting.

Board of Music: 11:30 AM, Library

Palm Sunday Rehearsal: 11:30 AM, Sanctuary

JWALKRZ: 5:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

If you placed a **Scrip-Your-All gift card order**, you may pick it up at the Scrip-Your-All table. Even if you didn't place an order, stop by and see all the great cards we have for immediate purchase! Your participation is appreciated, and has already helped to raise over \$2200!

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Craft Group: Monday, April 7, 5:30 PM, Chapel

Men's Group: Tuesday, April 7, 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner

Bible Study: Tuesday, April 8, 11 AM, Library

Deacons: Tuesday, April 8, **6 PM**, Library

Prayer Shawl: Wednesday, April 9, 1 PM, Library

BCE: Wednesday, April 9, 7 PM, Library

Missions: Wednesday, April 9, 7 PM, Chapel

Theology on Tap: Thursday, April 10, 6 PM at R House Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, April 10, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, April 11, 10:30 AM, Library

Contemporary Choir Rehearsal: Saturday, April 12, 10 AM, Sanctuary

The Easter Bunny (and BCE) needs donated bags of candy (individually wrapped pieces) for the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday. Please place your donations in the basket provided in the Narthex.

Please Note: next Sunday, April 13, the Ways & Means Committee will be selling **apple** or **pineapple cakes** during Coffee Hour for the low price of \$8 – one less dessert to make for your Sunday dinner!

Line Dancing: Monday, April 14, 7 PM in Fellowship Hall. Line dancing is a lot more than country music. The line dance troupe "Dance For U" will demonstrate how line dancing can be danced to a variety of music including pop, big band, Latin and oldies. If you have always wanted to take lessons, here's your chance to see what it's all about. At the end of the program, you will be given a chance to learn a couple of ultra-beginner dances. So, put on your dancing shoes, bring a friend and join us for a fun evening!

Women's Fellowship Scholarship: This \$500 scholarship is available to any church member who is continuing their education. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office. Deadline for applying is May 31.

Pictorial Directory Update: Great News! Our new FCCV Pictorial Directories are in the process of being printed! The expected shipment date is April 7, so they should arrive by Easter. Stay tuned for more information about when and how to pick up your copy.

The **R. Leslie Childs Scholarship** is a \$500 scholarship awarded each year to an FCCV church member or child of a member to provide assistance with musical training. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office. **Completed applications must be submitted to the Board of Music no later than April 15.**

Tag Sale, Saturday, April 26 to benefit the Youth Mission Trips. Now that it is officially spring, if you are doing any spring cleaning please consider donating your unwanted items (gently used, please). Donations will be accepted at the church the week before the sale (April 21-25).

Please Note: A heated **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 loose offering collected today is placed in the Deacons' Fund for aid, in time of emergency, to people within the congregation.

2014 FCCV Golf Event



Be a Player! **June 7**

Willow Brook Golf Course
South Windsor

- You and three friends
- You, your spouse and another couple
- You by yourself (we'll match you with other singles)

\$95 per golfer
(\$100 after June 1)

Please contact any Golf Committee member:
Paul & Sue Shimer, Mike & Elly Swan, Harmon Howe, Holly
Boutwell, Phyllis Chase