

ORDER OF WORSHIP – March 26, 2023

RINGING THE HOUR

Joseph D'Eugenio

*LENTEN PROCLAMATION

The Rev. Dr. James Campbell, The Rev. Alison McCaffrey

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O God Beyond All Praising, 64

*CONFESSION OF SIN

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, you stood in the graveyard of your friend Lazarus and wept, knowing for yourself the deep pain of human loss. In the same way, you stand with us and weep with us and wrap us in the Everlasting Arms.

All: For all the times we have accused you of being absent when we suffer, we ask your grace. For all the times we are sure that death is stronger than life, we ask for courage. In the midst of our everyday pain and loss, we ask for the eyes of faith.

*SILENT PRAYER (*we observe extended silence for personal confessions*)

*TRISAGION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: May the One who has promised to never leave us or forsake us, give us grace, courage, and faith for the living of our days.

All: Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us exchange words and signs of peace

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The Rev. Dr. James Campbell
The Rev. Alison McCaffrey

ADDRESS TO THE CONGREGATION

INTRODUCTION

Henry McNulty, Membership Ministry

Tracy Begic, Bogan Brooks, Christine Bruenn, Erica DeFrancesco, Nancy Demac,
Patricia Drenzek, Caleb Kroon, Jason Kroon, Sara Kroon, Andie Mackey, Steven Uricheck

QUESTIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS

Minister: Do you believe in God: revealed to us as Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit?

Response: I do.

Minister: Do you confess your need of the forgiveness of sins, and do you humbly put your whole trust in the mercy of God, known in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior?

Response: I do.

Minister: Do you promise to make careful use of the means of grace, to continue in the peace and fellowship of the people of God, and with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to be Christ's faithful disciple as long as you shall live?

Response: I do.

Minister: Do you desire to affirm your baptism and confirmation, and to be received as a member of The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ?

Response: I do.

*OWNING THE COVENANT

We bind ourselves in the presence of God, to be the people of God's covenant, to live and grow together in God's ways as revealed in the Bible, to serve and support this church, and to love one another after the example of Jesus Christ.

*UNISON WELCOME

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses to our risen Savior.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANTHEM

J. Arcadelt

O Lord, I Cry to Thee

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not

twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

***GOSPEL RESPONSE**

One: For the Word of God in Scripture -
For the Word of God among us -
For the Word of God within us -

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“A Weeping God”

The Rev. Dr. James Campbell

HYMN

Be Not Afraid, 430

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

*HYMN

O Christ the Same, 433

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Flowers are from Karen Helene in memory of her father, Gerald Stevens

Acolytes
Ezra Kroon
Grayson Podlas