



Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
The Reverend Amelia Edson
Serving Christ and Community since 1754



10:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 27th, 2022



THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

*If you are new to worship, welcome and please fill out a blue visitor card.
Throughout the order of worship, if print is in bold, words may be spoken in unison.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Joe Blinick

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE *(Please remain in your seat while passing the peace of Christ.)*

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

PRELUDE

Joe Blinick

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

One: God of this day,
Cultivate in us a spirit of worship—

**All: Hearts that pray,
Ears that hear,
Eyes that see,
Minds that believe.**

One: God of this space,
Cultivate in us a spirit of worship—

**All: Letting go of distractions
And fears,
Isolation
And doubt.**

One: God of this day,
Cultivate in us a spirit of worship—
And in this hour, we will cultivate faith—together.
For you are love, our new beginning,
And we will always need that.

All: Let us worship Holy God. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Our paths cross, intermingle, shift and swirl as life leads us on in the unfolding drama of our own story...

All: Loving God, in life we play so many parts: one day the wayward child, another the strictest parent; sometimes jealous and confused, other times open and kind; some days determined to go our own way, at other times open to your leading. In the mix of who we are, in the ups and downs of our lives, in our triumphs and failures, be the one who calls us back, who reminds us of home and sets our feet toward a world of welcome. When so much is left undone, where so much is left behind, when so many gifts lie unused, when too few tears have been shed, move our hearts and minds to seek forgiveness and the reconciliation love brings through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

One: Even as we walk slow and unsure of foot, God runs to greet us.
Even as we cling to being in the right, God forgives what is left unspoken...
We are made a new creation.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN	“This Is My Father’s World”	Chancel Choir
SCRIPTURE	Psalm 32 Luke 15:1-3, 11-24	Virginia Eddy
THE SERMON		Rev. Diane Bennekamper

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Life’s Railway to Heaven”
Charles D. Tillman & M. E. Abbey

Joe Blinick & Friends

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 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.

THE OFFERTORY

HYMN

“Creative God You Spread the Earth”

Chancel Choir

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Go in Peace”

POSTLUDE

Joe Blinick

* Musical material is presented under CCLI License #1117602

Thank you to our worship participants:

- Presiding: Rev. Diane Bennekamper
- Music Committee: Marilee Beinema, Virginia Eddy, Beth Stouder
- Music: Joe Blinick, Cathy Cadigan, Beth Stouder, Virginia Eddy
- Ushers: Lydia Hill & Nancy Wulbrecht
- Liturgist: Virginia Eddy
- Online Worship: Virginia Eddy, Tom Stegemann, Jack Gervais



Next Sunday’s Lectionary

Isa 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Phil 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8



ARTIST'S STATEMENT A NEW CREATION

By Hannah Garrity

Inspired by 2 Corinthians
5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Artist's Statement:

A couple of years ago, we did a water ritual at a summer Sunday service. I was needed to hold one of the bowls and perform the ritual. The liturgist instructed us to dip our thumbs into the water, slide the molecules into a cross on each person's forehead, and then look into their eyes and say, "You are a new creation; the old life is gone, a new life has begun." This sounded doable. I memorized the words. I knew the actions. I was ready.

When the time came, people began to line up at my station. "You are a new creation." After around thirty people, a child appeared. I knelt to meet her as I have for years in the elementary classroom. "The old life is gone, a new life has begun." My voice faltered. An adult was next, "You are a new creation." A new face emerged. "A new life has begun." And another. "You are a new creation." Now the faces, the group, the line, the humans, and the souls before me were suddenly whole. Tears began to stream down my face. I was able to humanize everyone. Though I didn't know them personally, the space between us was bridged and their eye contact, this ritual, these words, made each of them a whole life before my eyes. The words began to flow through me as my tears continued.

In that moment I began cultivating my ability to connect with the person right in front of me. In this image I have represented that feeling of the words flowing through me as new life emerges. Lines in the background imagine the pouring of the water, the permeating fall of the spirit. My smile is one of truth, honesty, and connection. It is the smile I find within me when I look people in the eye and greet them wholeheartedly. Growing around and above me are irises and fig leaves, two majestic species, here representing the grandeur of God in the fragility of a moment. Cultivate connection.

~Hannah Garrity, | A Sanctified Art LLC |
sanctifiedart.org