



Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

267 Falmouth Road

Falmouth, Maine 04105

207.781.3413



Serving Christ and Community since
1754 Third Parish Church;
1833 The Brick Church

The Reverend Michael H. Richards
Pastor and Teacher

FALMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

10:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

MARCH 12, 2017

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Endurance is not unyielding rigidity but allowing the divine image to flower anew daily.

*“Endurance is one of the most difficult disciplines,
but it is to the one who endures that the final victory comes.”*

–Gautama Siddharta, founder of Buddhism

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

HONORING OUR CALL TO BE PEACEMAKERS

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(As a sign of our reconciliation with God and one another, we invite you to turn and greet those around you sharing the peace of Christ saying: “The Peace of Christ be with you.” “And also with you.”)

PRELUDE

“My Redeemer”

J. McGranaham/L. Smith

BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather as a people for whom faith matters.

All: O God, deepen our faith.

One: We gather as a people rejoicing in memory.

All: O God, hallow our tradition.

One: We gather as a people committed to the church.

All: O God, give us joy in serving Jesus Christ.

One: We gather as a people who proclaim the Good News.

All: In word and deed, Your justice and compassion shine out, O God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

“The God of Abraham Praise”

No. 24

*OUR 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.

A TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Give us a spiritual rebirth, O God.

All: As we read the Word and receive inspiration, there is joy.

One: Give us a spiritual rebirth, O God.

All: As we encounter the saints and follow their example, we take courage.

One: Give us a spiritual rebirth, O God.

All: As we feel support in community and give of our talents, our faith comes alive.

One: Give us a spiritual rebirth, O God.

All: As we as we reflect on Jesus Christ, and renew our commitment, we know peace. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Almighty and merciful God, it is a gift that we can come before you to confess our sins.

All: You have already given us so much, and yet we continue to want more. And we want everything to come without struggle.

One: We get so consumed with our own desires that our eyes are blind to people in real need.

All: Forgive us when we fail to appreciate what we have. Forgive us when we don't do the work we need to do with care and diligence.

One: Cleanse us of envy, greed and laziness.

All: Help us see the world with your eyes so we will respond as you would — with generous hearts. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor Michael

One: Psalm 32 begins with these words, "Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Friends, be filled with great happiness! Because in Jesus Christ, your sins have been forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson

John 3:1-17

(NRSV p. 81; RSV p. 89†)

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 12:1-4a

(p. 9)

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

"Plot Twists"

Pastor Michael

*HYMN

"To God Be the Glory"

No. 72

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Amen"

John Stainer

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

The Invitation

The Offertory

"Pie Jesu"

Andrew Lloyd Webber

***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**

One: New life is your gift to us, O God; may these gifts bring new life.

All: Hope to the despairing, confidence to the faltering, peace to the suffering, faith to the doubting, a word to the questioning, a light for the dying.

One: Bless these our gifts, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, Your blessing for us. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Let All Things Now Living”

No. 717

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day. Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always. Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new Life! Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

POSTLUDE

“Solemn March”

W. A. Mozart/John Troutman

(During the postlude, you may be seated to listen, or you may leave.)

(* Please rise in body or spirit.

Throughout the order of worship, if print is in **bold**, words may be spoken together in unison.

† NRSV Bibles are on the pulpit side of the sanctuary and the RSV Bibles are on the lectern side of the sanctuary.

Please silence or turn off your cell phone before you enter the sanctuary. Thank you!

Worship Participants

Greeter: Lorraine Bergen

Liturgist: Cathy Bowden

Ushers: Rodney Coleman, Anne Coleman, John Boothby, Michel Kanyambo



The flowers that grace the chancel this morning

are given in loving memory of

David Harmon

by Joyce Harmon

We **welcome** you to worship and invite you to join us after the service in Fellowship Hall for refreshments. If you are visiting us today, please pick up a **Welcome Bag** in Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex. We encourage you to sign the guest book.

Children will be dismissed for Kids' Church following "A Time for the Children." **Visiting children are always welcome!** Kids' Church takes place in the downstairs classrooms, and runs until 11:15 AM. Children in preschool through grade 2 will not be dismissed after class until picked up by a parent.

Please join us for an **Italian Dinner on Saturday, March 18, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.** There will be salads, lasagna, Italian dishes, and desserts, as well as live violin music! A portion of the proceeds will go to supporting the Church's Mission efforts including helping the Italian earthquake victims. If you would like to volunteer that evening, please sign up on the lists in Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there. Ciao!

One Great Hour of Sharing: This important offering from our church is one of the "5 for 5" missions of the National United Church of Christ. OGHS supports international programs of health, education, agricultural development, relief, and refugee assistance in more than 80 countries. Your donations will be collected during Lent, with **Dedication Day on Sunday, April 2.**

With Easter right around the corner our efforts will be turning to the organization of our **annual Easter Egg Hunt**. We are in need of **volunteers** to both organize and be present the day of the hunt. For more information, please call the church office.

Forms for ordering **Easter flowers** are on the table in Fellowship Hall. You may choose between lilies, tulips or mini daffodils. The last day for ordering will be **Monday, April 3**.

The **Falmouth Food Pantry will be open on the following days in March**: Monday, March 20 from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM; Tuesdays, March 14, 21 and 28 from 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM; and on Thursdays, March 16 and 23 from 4:30 PM until 6:30 PM.



*The roses this morning are
in honor and celebration of the birth
of John and Eunice Wilcox's
twin granddaughters
Aurora Jade and Coral Anne
on January 9, 2017*



PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**Robbie Coleman
Charlie Grubb
Maureen Grubb
Mimi Mahirwe**



**Chrisanne Salazar
Joyce Harmon
Don Worthen**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Steve and Kim Hendry; and other family members of Timothy Barton. Kim's brother passed to his eternal rest last week.

"In life and in death we hold fast to the promises of the Gospel."

Please let the church office know if we have missed someone. We will keep people on the prayer list for one month. If you would like them to continue on the prayer list, please update us so that we may better pray for them. Thank you.



Next Sunday's Lectionary
Exodus 1:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; **John 4:5-42**



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Closed on Friday

Church Phone: 207.781.3413

Visit our Web site: www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org

Church Office e-mail: fccdesk@maine.rr.com

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This Week's Schedule

- Sunday March 12**
10:00 AM **Worship**
10:10 AM **Kids' Church**
11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
11:30 AM Council of Ministries (Grant Room)
11:30 AM Lenten Bible Study (Beinema Hall)
Deadline for April Congregator submissions
- Monday March 13**
6:00 PM Ministry of Education (Grant Room)
- Tuesday March 14**
10:00 AM Bible Study (OceanView)
- Wednesday March 15**
7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday March 18**
5:00 PM Italian Dinner (Beinema Hall)
- Sunday March 19**
9:00 AM Choir Practice
10:00 AM **Worship**
10:10 AM **Kids' Church**
11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
11:30 AM Lenten Bible Study (Beinema Hall)



Falmouth Congregational Church is a fragrance-free environment. Please help us to accommodate our members and visitors who are chemically sensitive to fragrances and other scented products. Thank you for not wearing perfume, aftershave, scented hand lotion, fragranced hair products and/or similar products.

