



February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent/New Member Sunday

9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Keith Ciccone, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Michael Frady

INROIT

Tree of Life

Valerie Johnson, Soprano

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Lead us in the way of truth, O God.

Show us your holy pathways.

Your way is steadfast love and faithfulness.

Teach us to follow where you lead.

We trust in your way, O Lord.

To you, we lift up our souls.

HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

We listen for your voice, holy God, amid the clamor of a world that scarcely notices this season of self-examination and instruction. Too long we have heeded the serpents among us whose craftiness beckons us away from faith and faithfulness. We delight in forbidden fruits and complain when they turn sour. Lead us, faithful Spirit, through the wilderness of our own creation, that we may once more find our way to you. Instruct us in the way we should go, and counsel us day by day. Help us rediscover your steadfast love. 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. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Suzy Aja Burba

Mr. Archimedes “Archie” Sanchez

LITANY OF INTENT

Friends in Christ, we are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism.

Our sister Suzy and our brother Archie have found nurture and support in the midst of this community of Christ.

They have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and with the members of the church.

Thanks be to God!

Together we will grow in relationship to Jesus and to strive to love God with all our hearts, and with our souls, and with all our minds.

They join us in striving to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Suzy and Archie, we rejoice in your journey of faith that has brought you to this time and place.

We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home.

PROMISES FROM THE NEW MEMBERS

Deacon Jean Opie:

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to continue in your journey of faith, to be Christ’s disciple, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Suzy and Archie: We promise, with the help of God.

Deacon Jean Opie:

Do you promise to participate in the full life and mission of this community of God’s people, that as far as you are able, you will share regularly in worship and offer your time, talent and means to further the ministry of this church and the larger church of which we are a part?

Suzy and Archie: We promise, with the help of God.

PROMISES FROM THE CHURCH

Brothers and sisters in Christ, do you promise to help these gathered find their place in the body of Christ, to pray with them and for them, to welcome them fully in holy friendship, to be angels for them in times of distress and servants to them in times of need?

First Church Members: We promise, with the help of God.

CONGREGATIONAL 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 of a Christ who is alive and well and at work in the world.

HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:9-15

Jean Opie

SERMON

“Calm Water to Cold Wilderness”

Rev. Suzy Aja Burba

MUSIC RESPONSE

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Michael Frady

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 for ever. Amen.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures, here, below.

Praise Him, above, ye heav’nly hosts.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious and Loving God, bless these gifts we offer this day. Through these offerings, may the blessings of your Spirit flow to every corner of the world, that all people may know they are your beloved children. In Christ’s holy name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

Search Me, O God

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Thank you for viewing this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. Of all the things you could have done this morning, we're glad you chose to be with us.



About Today's Service: We are live-streaming today's service for those who can not attend in person. We are closely watching the recommendations of the United Church of Christ and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in regards to holding in-person worship service due to the current COVID-19 status in our community. The situation is fluid so please check our webpage to confirm if weekly worship services are in-person or only online.

Subscribe to the First Church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTaGrBGnYzfM66pS7Bd4PvA>



Prayer Lists are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Non-perishable Food Pantry donations are collected for The Marge Crispin Center on the first Wednesday of the Month in front of the church. Contact free! Just drive by and drop. Or place your donations in the basket in LPH or the Narthex. Thank you!

First Congregational Church is handicapped accessible. Please see an usher if you need assistance with the elevator.

Televised Worship Services are broadcast on BCAM: Verizon Channel 28, Comcast Channel 9, on Saturday at 8:00 AM and Sunday at 10:00 AM.

First Church Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00am—1:00pm.



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