

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH KENT,
CONNECTICUT

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

5:30

PM

A Community of Faith, Service and Love

ASH WEDNESDAY

PRELUDE

THE DECALOGUE

Leader: God spoke all these words, and said: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have none other gods but me.

People: Lord have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: Thou shalt not make for yourself any graven image, nor the

likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them, nor worship them.

People: Lord have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

People: Lord have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

People: Lord have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this laws.

Leader: Honor you Father and your Mother.

People: Lord have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not commit murder.

People: Lord have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not commit adultery.

People: Lord have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not steal.

People: Lord have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not bear false witness

People: Lord have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Leader: You shall not covet anything which belongs to your neighbor.

People: Lord have mercy on us, and write your laws on our hearts.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, acknowledging our sinfulness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN #384,

Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me
hide myself in thee. Let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the
double cure, save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands, can fulfill
the law's demands; Could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow, All for sin could
not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply
to thy cross I cling; naked, come to thee for dress,
helpless, look to thee for grace; foul I to the
fountain fly; wash me Savior, or I die!

While I draw this fleeting breath, when my
eyes shall close in death, When I soar to world unknown,

see thee on thy judgement throne, Rock of Ages,
cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

THE CALL TO LENTEN OBSERVANCE

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

‘Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

‘So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MEDITATION

THE LITANY

Leader: O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,
People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,
People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, neither reward us according to our sins.

People: Spare us, good Lord

Leader: Spare us, good Lord, spare your people, whom you have redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us, forever.

People: Spare us, good Lord.

Leader: From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,

People: Good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

People: Good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the

deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

People: Good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: From hardness of heart, and from contempt of your Word and commandments,

People: Good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: By the mystery of your Incarnation; by your Nativity and submission to the Law; by your Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

People: Good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: By your Cross and Passion; by your Death and Burial; by your

Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Spirit,

People: Good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: That it may please you to bless and keep all your people,

People: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: That it may please you to give to all people grace to hear and receive your Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

People: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: That it may please you to give us a heart to love and fear you and diligently to live after your commandments,

People: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: That it may please you to show pity to the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

People: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: That it may please you to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which you give us to do with singleness of heart and for the common good.

People: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: That it may please you to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with your presence those who are failing and infirm,

People: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: That it may please you to have mercy upon all mankind,

People: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: That it may please you to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligence, and ignorance; and to endue us with the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy Word,

People: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: That it may please you to grant to all the faithful departed

eternal life and peace,

People: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

People: Have mercy upon us.

Leader: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

People: Have mercy upon us.

Leader: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

People: Grant us thy peace. Amen.

HYMN #382

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord to pray. But you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew: what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you.

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease. Then bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ministers: Community of Faith

Pastor: The Rev. John David Heeckt

Organist: John Paul Zurlo

Soloist: Veralyn Davee

Video Team: Bethany Keck and Bill Dahl

WE WELCOME ALL who are worshipping with us via the internet.

Prayer List:

Doctors, Nurses, Hospital staff, prayers for PPE, treatments, vaccines, all those with COVID 19 and their families, Food service people, truck drivers, all those out of work, Robert, John, George, Lee, Leslie, Eric and Family.

Please mail your offering in weekly/monthly
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