

The First Congregational Church
February 21, 2021

Kent, Connecticut
10:00 AM

A Community of Faith, Service and Love

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #358, *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*
Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown,
Jesus, though art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit, us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finnish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place.
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI (#734)

*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.*

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

SERMON

HYMN #252 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*
Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.

As you did hunger and did thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and so to live by your most holy Word.

And thro' these days of penitence, and thro' your Passiontide,
Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,
An Easter of unending joy we may at last attain!

PRAYER CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER, 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.

OFFERING

Invitation

Doxology (#34)

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

HYMN #344

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,

I have decided to follow Jesus.

No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, The world behind me, the cross before me. The world behind me, the cross before me.

No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow, though none go with me, I still will follow, though none go with me, I still will follow

No turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus?

No turning back, no turning back.

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, Barbie.

Please mail your offering in weekly/monthly

First Congregational Church

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