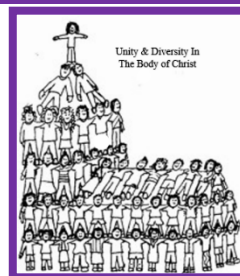


First Church UCC West Springfield, MA

March 9, 2025

First Sunday in Lent

*No matter who you are, whatever your life circumstance,
and wherever you are in the journey of faith, we welcome you;
Jesus welcomes you!*



Mission: Making Disciples Ministries: Sharing the Love Ministers: Each One of Us

Prelude

Meditation on Colossians 3:15 by Brenda Portman

Kathy Marks-Huber

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Chontell Washington

+Call to Worship (*standing as you are able*)

Helen Johnson

One: Do not use your freedom to indulge the selfish ways; rather, serve one another humbly in love

All: Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves

One: Each of us should use whatever gifts we have to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace

All: May we share what we have and please God

One: Live in harmony with one another

All: Remove our arrogance and replace it with humility and love for all

One: For God's sake, release the idols that we may have made and make room for more of God's grace

All: For God's sake, we serve others and ourselves with equal value as God's creations.

+Praise Song AAH 412

We've Come This Far By Faith

Prayer of Confession (*seated*)

"Even now return to me with all your heart," declares the LORD. We come to You Lord, with fasting and weeping and mourning. We strive to return to Your oh God. We Return our lives to You, for You are gracious and merciful. Create in us clean hearts, O God. Renew a righteous spirit. As we gather to walk together on this Lenten journey we Look to You for forgiveness, strength and focus. Help us to re-build where things seem broken. Help us re-build, re-connect, live our lives slow to anger, and filled with compassion and love.

Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Pardon

Be re-integrated into the body of Christ. Serve with a mindset of connection to the One. Know that God sees and hears you. In Him, you are forgiven.

Scripture Reading	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	Helen
Children’s Time		Diana Forfa
Song of the Month	Change My Heart, Oh God	
Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true; Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You. Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true, Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You. You are the potter. I am the clay, Mold me and make me. This is what I pray. Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true; Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You.		
Offertory	Use the white envelope for contributions to the General Fund and the yellow Deacon's Fund envelope to contribute to church members in need.	
+Doxology NC 780	Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.	
+Prayer of Dedication	As we prepare these gifts with joyful anticipation, we ask You to bless this offering and let it be used to bring about Your will. Enable our hearts and our hands to work tirelessly in your vineyard, always seeking to embody Your love and grace. May every contribution, no matter its size, serve as a testament to our collective faith and commitment to your mission. Amen.	
Anthem	Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land	Spiritual, Arr. W. Walker
Scripture	Luke 4:1-13	Rev. Chontell
Sermon		
+Blessing Song NC 459	Come, O Fount of Every Blessing	
Prayers for the People	(prayer request email prayer@firstchurchws.org)	
+Benediction	Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to: walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. Amen. ~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her Spacious Faith blog. Benediction	
+Postlude	Bouree, BWV 831 by J.S. Bach	