

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

February 5, 2012

10:30 a.m.

The Delightful Lightness of Being in Light Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

“Scout Sunday” – Welcome Troop 1!

(Throughout worship, please stand as you are able.)

Today’s Readings: *Isaiah 40:21–31, Psalm 147:1–11, 20c,
1 Corinthians 9:16–23, Mark 1:29–39*

A Morning Prayer

Everlasting God, you give strength to the powerless and power to the faint; you raise up the sick and cast out demons. Make us agents of healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creations. Amen. **–UCC Worship Ways**

Welcome and Announcements



Installation of Church Leaders for 2012

(At prompt from Pastor Jane:) **We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Christ. Amen.**



The Ritual of Friendship *(Passing of God’s Peace)*



Prelude: **“Firm a Foundation”** arr. Robert Hobby
Presented by Carole Sue Linson, Organist

Call To Worship: Randy Cook, Lay Reader

Good people of the church, lift up your eyes and see.

Have you not seen? Have you not heard? Our God greets us here.


Good servants of the Most High, open your ears to hear.

Have you not seen? Have you not heard? Our God meets us here.

Good children of the light, open your hearts and know what it means to delight in God.

For we have seen, heard and known from the beginning to the end, Our God...is.

 **Hymn of Worship:** “Arise, Your Light is Come” 164

 **Opening Prayer:** (Together) Randy Cook, Lay Reader
Eternal God, Creator of the universe...and then some. We call on you, you who greet us here. We give you thanks for making it possible to gather, and to ponder your eternal mysteries. Make us, creatures of this time and space, ready collaborators with your endless grace. Amen.

Admitting Our Shortcomings

What do we hold and treasure most? **Is it the promises of God?**

What captivates our attention? **Is it the grace of God?**

God of mercy and grace:

We are vulnerable people who sometimes ignore the vulnerable. We are broken people who don't always pay attention to the world's brokenness. Heal us, O God, to make us better healers. Mend our rifts, that we might be better builders. Cleanse our hearts, so we can clear out the damage of hurt and oppression. We are yours, loving God. Help us to live and to know this better. (Silence for reflection)

Receiving God's Forgiveness

Have you known? Have you heard? Our God lifts us up on eagle's wings, strengthening us so that we won't be weary. The burden of sin is but a far and distant memory, for, through Christ, our sins – all of them – are forgiven.

God is great in strength, mighty in power, and full of endless love for us all. Amen.

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 40:21-31

Randy Cook, Lay Reader



Gloria Patri:

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
And to the Holy One.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.**



Children's Moment:

As the children are coming forward the congregation sings:

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah! Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah! Halle-lu-jah, halle-lu-jah!

Hymn of Preparation "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" 485

Readings from the Gospel According to Mark

Mark 1: 29-39

Pastor Jane

Homily: "Downtime"

Pastor Jane

Prayers of the People:

(Sharing of Concerns & Joys)

In the power and presence of God,

we share your prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Meditation

Lord's Prayer (*using "trespasses"*)

Invitation to Share:

In thanksgiving for God's blessings to us, let us give of our treasure as an offering to God through the ministry of this church.

Offertory: **"Air"** J.S. Bach
Presented by Carole Sue Linson, Organist

 **Doxology:** (#780 in Hymnal)

Blessing Over the Gifts: (Together)

God of all that is, all we have, all we are – we give. We give these gifts as we reach across the thresholds of our concerns. We give these gifts, knowing that they will give so much more. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Simple Service of Holy Communion

"Come to the Table of Grace" by Barbara Hamm and "Pray"
by Stephen Nix

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence. We have been led, Eternal One, by your light. May we bask in this glow now and always. Amen.

Benediction:

We have feasted at the table of Jesus, so let us go out now to feed others. May the blessings of God, the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Amen, Amen. Thanks be to God!

Sending Forth Hymn: "O Grant Us Light" 469

Postlude:

“March in D”

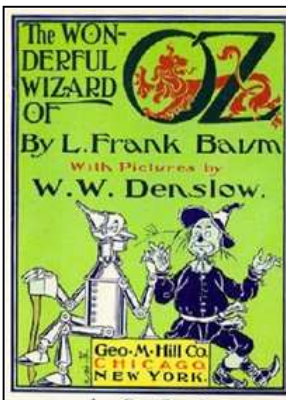
J.S. Bach

Presented by Carole Sue Linson, Organist

*Everyone is invited to gather in Perkins Hall
for fellowship and refreshments.*

Prayer List

This week, as you pray, please remember in your prayers Irene Warren, Barbi Beeson, Arlene Relth, Evelyn Bennett, Martha Clark, Gerri Lyons' mother, Thomas B. Gilpin, Blake Gilpin, Ida Herring, Tammy Wallman, Bill Ingraham, Chester Ingraham, Dallas Jones, Kelly, Murl Preble, Bernice Wallace, Chuck Prohaska, Rabbi Billy Berkowitz and his family on the death of his father, Amy Wilson's Granddaughters Alycia Bock and Brittany Smith, Margaret Brackley, Family of Patsy McCoy, Melody Houston, Donavan, Sylvia Staats, Allen, Jane Osborn, Don Storer, Sherry Hager, Doris Hille, the family of Hank Keeton, Bret and Judy Ely and their family on the passing of Judy's dad, Chuck Prohaska, Jean Wooburn and for our congregation and its leaders as we move forward, listening to the "Still Speaking God".



This year, **Vacation Bible School will take place from March 12 – 16, 8:30 am – 2:45 pm.** Our theme is, **“The Holy Spirit and the Wizard of Oz.”** We need help with this wonderful program! If you are interested in being a teacher or helping with food or in any other way (all day or part of one), please contact Marilyn Kerstine or Pastor Jane.

Invitation to Temple B'rith Shalom



The Sisterhood at Temple B'rith Shalom have invited our women's fellowship to share "Purim"* with them on **Monday, March 6 at 1 p.m.** which includes a "Best Hat" contest. **February 20** will be the last day to sign up, please call Holly in the office or sign up in Perkins Hall. We always have a fun time, if you haven't attended one of their events please consider coming this time, we will set up car pools from church.

*"Purim" -- is a Jewish festival celebrated on the 14th day of Adar (the 6th month of the Jewish Calendar), that commemorates the deliverance of the Jews in Persia from destruction by Haman.

Events At a Glance

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:

Sun. Feb 5	Scout Sunday	
Mon. Feb 6	6:30 pm	Exploring Progressive Christianity
Tues. Feb 7	1:00 pm	Knit Wits
Wed. Feb 8	5:30 pm	Agape Soup/Supper Fellowship
Wed. Feb 8	6:45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thur. Feb 9	12:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Thur. Feb 9	4:30 pm	Foundation Meeting
Sat. Feb 11	1:00 pm	Sweet Adelines Concert

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mon. Feb 13	6:30 pm	Exploring Progressive Christianity
Tues. Feb 14	7:00 pm	Trustee Mtg.
Wed. Feb 15	6:45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thur. Feb 16	12:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Thur. Feb 16	4:30 pm	Foundation Meeting
Thur. Feb 16	7:00 pm	Taizé Service

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Many of us will fast this Lent. We will give up chocolate or red meat or American Idol, so that when we feel the craving for these things, we will be reminded of God's craving for us. The prophet Isaiah, writing long before the first Lent, says that while this kind of fast is OK, it just isn't enough. He suggests a different kind of fast: one from all injustice and oppression. Oh, sure, Isaiah! No problem. For most of us, the only injustice we're part of is systemic: it's in the institutions and cities and countries where we live. How are we supposed to give up that? Move to Antarctica?

It's not simple, but maybe we can just start. Maybe there's a way to take a "journey-of-a-thousand-miles-begins-with-a-single-step" approach. What if we began with fasting from just one piece of injustice: from non-fairly-traded coffee, from stores that don't compensate their workers fairly, from driving when public transportation is available? What if we just start? What change might we create in the world, or in ourselves, with such small steps? Would it be enough? For Isaiah, who is known for being unyielding, probably not, frankly. But for God, who is known for being merciful and loving? Almost definitely. --A selection, by Quinn G. Caldwell, a minister in the United Church of Christ

February Worship Leaders		
Today's worship services lead by:		
Pastor Jane Cheek		
Lay Readers	Communion Servers	
5th: Randy Cook	Judy & Brett Ely	
12th: Christy Dinsman		
19th: Marilyn Kerstine	Offering Counters	Staff
26th: Gordon Bergthold	Al Beeson	Pastor Jane Cheek, Lic. Minister
Greeters	Phil Preble	Holly Houston, Office Admin.
5th: Don & Joanne Storer, & Shelly Sica	Pete Norum	Jane Osborn, Director of Music
12th: Lee Ruether, Randy Cook, & Tarah Jones	Ron Solt	Carole Sue Linson, Organist
19th: Jim & Kay Gilpin & Family, & Marilyn Lummel	Ushers	Bill Linson, Custodian
26th: Joanne Lussier & Betty Corn	5th: Jay & Marilyn Eby	Josh Taylor, Child Care
	12th: Jay & Marilyn Eby	Debbie Staats, Coffee Coordinator
	19th: Jay & Marilyn Eby	
	26th: Jay & Marilyn Eby	