



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
March 8, 2015
8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.



LENTEN SERMON SERIES:
“GREAT TEXTS, CORE TRUTHS”
PART THREE – “WE MODEL A CERTAIN WAY OF LIFE”

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 8, 2015

8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Children are always welcome at our worship services.

*A drop-off Nursery is available to children age 2 and younger
at the new Two's classroom starting [at 9:45 a.m.](#)*

****Those who are able are invited to stand.***

PRELUDE

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #384**

“SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Such a cloud of faithful witnesses surrounds us.
Their inspiration offsets the weight of our failure.

**Today we are invited to let go of our flaws,
and to equip ourselves for our challenges.**

We recall Jesus' pioneering work along this path,
how he confronted his fears and faced detractors.

**Lent is our walk with Jesus back to Jerusalem.
Along this walk, we will not faint or be crushed.**

(Unison)

**Here we brace ourselves for every way life tests us.
Here we prepare for all that the world can hurl at us.**

***OPENING 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 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 forever. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL (10:00 a.m. only)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (10:00 a.m. only)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON HEBREWS 12.1-4, 12-13 Al Nickerson, Deacon (8:30)
Mary Ann Freeman, Deacon (10:00)

GOSPEL LESSON JOHN 15:12-17 Rev. Rosenberger

SERMON LENTEN SERMON SERIES: "GREAT TEXTS, CORE TRUTHS"
PART THREE - "WE MODEL A CERTAIN WAY OF LIFE" Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY PSALM 23 (from Requiem) John Rutter
(10:00 a.m. only) Senior Choir with John Hanulik Oboe

***DOXOLOGY** (10:00 only)

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low; Praise
God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (10:00 only)

(unison)

In the name of Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, we offer our money and lives in sacrifice and service. May what we do ourselves, along with the ministries we support, glorify Christ and enlist others as disciples and apostles. We rejoice in this opportunity to give and to stand with Jesus and each other when it matters most. Amen.

***HYMN #370**

“HE LEADETH ME, O BLESSED THOUGHT”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS Lou Converse, April Barker, Mary Ann Freeman, Kathy Monro and Al Nickerson (8:30 a.m.)

MUSIC NOTES: During Lent the Choir will be presenting Psalm 23 Theme and Variations-Settings of the 23rd Psalm by various composers.

Ministers: Every member of the congregation.

Clergy and Staff:

The Rev. Dale Rosenberger, *Pastor (emergency pager) 1- (203) 368-7789*

The Rev. Ronald T. Evans, *Pastor Emeritus*

Sally Bassler, *Lay Minister for Pastoral Care* (cell) (203) 554-1724

Daniel Hague, *Music Director* Maxim Pakhomov, *Organist*

Kate Nelson, *Church School Director* Justin Inners, *Youth Minister*

Teri Manning, *Nursery School Director* Karen Hansen, *Treasurer*

Dennis Hanlon, *Church Administrator*

Carlos Maya, *Sexton* Ulises Mendez, *Sunday Sexton*

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in 138 countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHs also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

We will receive donations for One Great Hour of Sharing next Sunday, March 15.

Lenten Book Study

Join us for our Lenten Book Study as we discuss Atul Gawande's "Being Mortal" Wednesday evenings (March 4, 11, 18 & 25), at 7:00 p.m. in the Morehouse Room.

Come As You Are Service: Save the Dates

The response to the Come As You Are services was overwhelmingly positive -- with attendance strong on all four Sundays. We've taken great care to ask for feedback and will be experimenting with new ideas as we move forward, including alternatives to music and location. With Justin leaving us this spring to return closer to his home town and as we embark on a search for a full time Associate Minister/Youth Pastor, we are aiming to have one Come As You Are service in March, April, and May. Our hope is to do more this fall. **For now, please mark your calendars for the following Sundays: March 22, April 19, and May 17.** We recognize the April Sunday is the second of the spring break, but with Easter and Confirmation Sunday, our choices were limited. We hope you will join us!

Night Owls

Join us on Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30 in the Church kitchen to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Lou Converse is cooking a Shepard's Pie. Dorothy Mincus is bringing dessert, Teri Manning the appetizer and I'll do a salad. Mandy Teare has the music cued up.

Join us if you can. Dinner is open to any church woman. Bring your own beverage and \$5.00 to cover the cost of dinner.

Please let me know by Monday, March 9 if you are attending.

Debbie Nelson dcnelson@optonline.net 203-655-4883

Knitting Ministry Schedule:

The Knitting Ministry will be meeting on Tuesday, March 17th at 7:30 P.M. in the Morehouse Room. Anyone interested in learning to crochet and/or knit is welcome to join the group.

Meetings will continue at 7:30 P.M. March 24 and March 31.

If there are questions, call Marnie Hodil at (203) 655-0888 or e-mail at grhodil@optonline.net.



On **PALM SUNDAY** (**March 29**), we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. Children from our Church School will parade around the Meetinghouse and distribute palm branches.

On **MAUNDY THURSDAY** (**April 2**), we will remember how Jesus transformed the Passover with a Scripture readings and Holy Communion, starting at 7:00 p.m. This service is simple, quiet, dignified and full of symbolic power.

Beginning at 6:00 a.m. on **GOOD FRIDAY** (**April 3**), by longstanding tradition, the church family will **read the New Testament** all the way through from the pulpit Bible. Individuals and families may sign up for one or more twenty-minute blocks throughout the day until midnight. A sign-up sheet can be found in Parish Hall.

Also on **GOOD FRIDAY**, people from all over Darien will **gather at our church at 10:30 a.m. to carry a large cross through town**. There are several “stations” along the way and you can join us or leave at any point. (We will be easy to find!) This is a wonderful and meaningful experience for old and young alike. The procession of laypeople and clergy will continue to St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, where the **community Good Friday worship** will begin at 12:00 noon. Worshipers may come for part or all of the service, which lasts until 3:00 p.m. Reverend Rosenberger will preach sometime during the three-hour block of community-wide worship.

This year’s **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** (**Sunday, April 5**) will return to Stephen Mather Cemetery (southeast corner of Brookside Road and Stephen Mather Road) at 7:00 a.m.

Our 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. **EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES** will be identical, and will be designed with families in mind. Choral music, flowers, and balloons will underscore the joy of the day. Children can remain in the Meetinghouse for the entire service. If desired, childcare will be available in the Circle Room, for the care of infants and children younger than 2nd grade. We hope that families will enjoy worshipping together on this sacred day.

As always, children’s bulletins will be available.

An Easter egg hunt will take place after the 11:00 a.m. service. Children to gather in front of the stage in Parish Hall after the service.



Easter Flowers

We are in the season of giving thanks.

This is the time to recognize the special people and events that make you smile, warm your heart and make your days a pleasure.

Flowers always add a tender touch of grace and color to the Meetinghouse at Easter time. Then, when shared with church members who are not able to join us for worship they become an ongoing gift.

You may fill out this form or sign up in the church office.

Include your check for \$30.00 to “The First Congregational Church of Darien,” and note “Flower Donation” on the memo line.

(Due in the church office no later than **Friday, March 27th**).

A list of the flower dedications will be printed in the Easter bulletins.

I would like _____ Easter plants.

In Gratitude of/for _____

In Celebration of/for _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Graciously Donated

by: _____

Enclosed is my check for: _____ (\$30.00 each)

**** Please note:**

_____ **I will be taking my flowers.**

_____ **I will not be taking my flowers, so please donate it in my/our name.**

CHURCH CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 9

Board of Deacons, 7:45 p.m. in the Circle Room
Board of Stewards, 8:00 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Board of Christian Education, 7:30 p.m. in the Library

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

Lenten Book Discussion, "Being Mortal", 7:00 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room
Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.
"Come As You Are" Service, 4:30 p.m. in the Circle Room

Tired of winter?

You are invited to:

"Ring in Spring" Drinks Party

Saturday, March 21st

6:30 – 9:30pm

Home of Nancy & James Sheed

Come when you can, stay as long as you can.

You are welcome to bring a savory or sweet to share.

Please invite and encourage a church friend to join in the fun.

RSVP - March 16th

nmsheed@yahoo.com

(invitations also being sent via email)