

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,  
you’re welcome here.”**

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# **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

March 5, 2023

Second Sunday of Lent

† Those who are able, may stand.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Altar flowers today are presented by Cathy and Jim Light, in loving memory of their parents Janet and Boris Paajanen and Vivian, and Orlo Light.

## **CHIMES**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

## **PRELUDE**

I Woke Up This Morning

## **WELCOME**

Dr. Guerreno

Welcome to First Congregational Church of Saint Clair, United Church of Christ, where no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you're welcome here. Many thanks to all who are here for this worship service. Greetings to those of you with us on the Facebook Livestream. And a big thank you to all who are helping with this morning's worship service.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

## **† HYMN**

Lord, Jesus Who Through Forty Days  
NCH211 vs 1, 2, 3

## **† CALLING ON GOD**

Nancy Rice

Gathered as God's people, we praise the One whose love has sought and found us. Gathered as God's people, we join in prayer.

## **† OPENING PRAYER**

Nancy Rice

**Loving and Giving God, we do praise you, even as we admit we have wronged you and strayed from your ways. We saw you hungry and did not feed you. We saw you cold and naked, and did not clothe you or offer you warmth. We heard of your**

**imprisonment and did not come to visit you. We watched you grieve your loss and were too embarrassed to comfort you. We saw many opportunities to serve you but avoided you in the shadows of our own convenience. Help us recognize the wrong we do, that we may turn to you for forgiveness. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

In Christ there is death.

**In Christ there is resurrection.**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, believe the good news of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**† HYMN**

Lord, Jesus Who Through Forty Days  
NCH211 vs 4

**The children are excused for Sunday school during  
Yes, Jesus Loves Me.**

**THE FIRST READING**

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 NRSV  
Nancy Rice

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

Open Our Hearts

**THE SECOND READING**

John 2:1-11, Ruden  
Dr. Guerreno

Lenten sermon series, "Much Ado About Miracles"

**SERMON**

"Chemistry and Miracles"  
Dr. Guerreno

**† HYMN**

O My Soul, Bless Your Creator  
NCH13 vs 1, 3, 5

**JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

## **OFFERTORY**

Praise the Source of Faith and Learning

## **†OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

We Praise You, O God

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

## **†PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Truly, Mighty God, there is wonder all around us, wonder we overlook, wonder we don't see, just as there is wonder we notice and wonder we enjoy. You give us wonder, we give you thanks. These tokens of thanks are measurable. They are useful. They can do your work in ways we can't. In such a way then, Mighty God, help us continue to measure your love and to respond with equal measurement, that the fullness of your love would be all around us, in the name and spirit of your Son. Amen.**

## **COMMUNION**

Invitation

Sharing the Story

Blessing the Elements

The Meal is Served

Thanksgiving after the Meal

† **CLOSING HYMN**

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name  
NCH80 vs 1 & 4

† **BENEDICTION**

† **POSTLUDE**

Lift High The Cross

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Altar flowers today are presented by Cathy and Jim Light, in loving memory of their parents Janet and Boris Paajanen, and Vivian and Orlo Light.



**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...**

Harrietta Ryan, Eric Fandruck, Matthew Pennewell, Emerson Stone, Jan Yager, Rachel O'Connor, Joan Westbrook, Marge Guinther, Barb Jeffries, Genie Lucyk, Ann Whittaker. Also, remember Edwin Summers, Cameron Coverly (Army-deployed in Europe), Nathan Distelrath, all who are serving in the military, first responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

**TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don Rice

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Hrant Hrachian, Anna Moore

USHERS: Don Rice, Tom Pennewell

READER: Nancy Rice

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

COMMUNION: Kathy Cilluffo

3/12 - NEXT WEEK'S READER: Elsa Pennewell

## NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"Weather and Miracles"

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-30 Matthew 8:23-27

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### 3/12/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don Rice

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Hrant Hrachian, Anna Moore

USHERS: Don Rice, Tim Galvin

READER: Elsa Pennewell

POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

3/19 – READER: Jody Skonieczny

### OPEN AND AFFIRMING INCLUSIVE CHURCH COVENANT

The members of the First Congregational Church of St. Clair, United Church of Christ, declare that we are a fully inclusive, Open and Affirming Congregation. We affirm the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and believe that all people are children of God. As such, we welcome to the community of faith all people of diverse race, physical and mental abilities, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, and socio-economic status. We covenant to provide to all a safe, loving, nurturing and compassionate community.

### **~CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS~**

#### **INTERIM CHUCK GUERRENO**

Chuck can be reached at the church 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Thursday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., on Saturday, and 8:00 a.m. – 12 p.m., on Sunday. Chuck can also be reached at [stclairinterim@gmail.com](mailto:stclairinterim@gmail.com) and (989) 980-0061.

#### **SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Pastoral Search Committee is continuing to update the church profile. The search committee members are: Co-Chairs Avery Skonieczny & Don Rice, Rose Crowley, Mike Kennedy, Don O'Connor.

Kathy Rood, Kathy Cilluffo, Sam Tricomo, Vicki Kling and Ash Currie. We are available for your questions and concerns regarding the pastoral search in person or email at [firstcongsc@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongsc@gmail.com).

### **LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES**

Ecumenical services will be held at noon on March 1 & 8 at Holy Family Episcopal and will also be held at noon on March 15, 22, & 29 at St. Peter's Lutheran. A simple lunch provided (soup & bread) followed by a very brief service at our tables to include prayer, reading part of gospel lesson and a discussion question. No pressure, you can listen and take it all in or actively participate.

### **CURIOUS ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?**

If you're wondering about becoming a church member, please speak with Pat O'Connor or Chuck to set up a time to chat. Your questions about the United Church of Christ and this church specifically will be answered.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

There is Sunday School for children aged 5-12. The children will be excused to attend Sunday school following the opening prayer during Yes, Jesus Loves Me. Teachers and an assistant teacher will bring the children to the Lounge after class has ended. There is a nursery where parents may go with their younger children if they choose to. It's a comfortable room where children may play. There is a changing table in the bathroom in the lounge.

### **PASTOR'S EMERGENCY FUND**

Our Communion Offerings are usually placed in a Pastor's Emergency Fund. Those needing emergency assistance are screened and, when available, funds are provided.

## **LITTLE FOOD PANTRY**

This small pantry is a community outreach program sponsored by The Mission Team of this church. It is stocked twice-weekly with non-perishable food. Donation requests may change but the need to feed does not.

For March this year,  
Lent is our guide.  
We honor sacrifice  
For the ONE who died.

Stocking the pantry  
With food we share  
Will show others  
A prayer is there.

March pantry needs:  
Cereal  
Canned Fruit  
Canned Tuna  
Mashed Potatoes (in pouch)  
Spaghetti Sauce (in a can)

Please leave your food donations in the elevator room on the shelves labeled THE LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY.

Any questions...please call Nancy Kennedy @ 810-329-3790.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you are interested in donating altar flowers, please contact Bev Stewart at (810) 329-2147 or (810) 300-2664



## HYMN LYRICS

### HYMN

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days  
NCH211 vs 1, 2, 3

Lord Jesus, who through 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 to persevere,  
in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence,  
and through this Passiontide,  
Yes, ever more, in life and death,  
O Christ, with us abide.

### HYMN

Lord, Jesus Who through Forty Days  
NCH211 vs 4

Abide with us, till when this life  
of suffering shall be past,  
An Easter of unending joy  
we may attain at last.

### HYMN

O My Soul, Bless Your Creator  
NCH13 vs 1, 3, 5

O my soul, bless your Creator;  
all within me bless God's name;  
Bless your Maker, and forget not  
all God's mercies to proclaim.

Far as east from west is distant,  
God has put away our sin;  
Like a mother and a father,  
God compassionate has been.

Unto all who keep God's covenant  
and are steadfast in God's way;  
Unto all who still remember  
God's commandments and obey.

**HYMN**

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

NCH80 1 & 4

Savior, again to your dear name we raise  
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
We join to bless you ere our worship cease,  
then, in the silence, wait your word of peace.

Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,  
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;  
Then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
call us, O God, to your eternal peace.