



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
CONGREGATIONAL
SUFFIELD, CT

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING
CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MARCH 23, 2025

Order of Worship

GATHERING MUSIC

LIGHTING OF PEACE CANDLE

FIRST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

As disciples of Jesus and stewards of God's creation, we joyfully worship, faithfully serve, and generously give so lives may be transformed.

PRELUDE

Change My Heart Oh God

Eddie Espinosa

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Brothers and sisters, boys and girls

ALL: Come and worship!

One: Even if you're tired and worn out—

ALL: Come and worship!

One: Lay down the heavy things you are carrying—

ALL: Come and worship!

One: Listen to what Jesus wants to tell you—

ALL: Come and worship!

One: See if you can discover how Jesus wants to use you—

ALL: Come and worship!

One: For Jesus is humble and gentle, and he will give us everything we need to follow him.

ALL: Let us worship our loving God together!

OPENING PRAYER

In times of weakness and hour of need, yours is the strength by which we carry on, the shoulder we rest our head upon. When our load is heavy and too much to bear, yours are the arms stretched out to help us with the grace that we depend on.

In times of weakness and hour of need, your voice is heard, 'Come... find rest.' This is grace divine, the path we tread to wholeness of body and spirit, the path that leads to you, and for which we offer our offering of praise.

*HYMN

[*O Jesus Christ, My Grateful Hymns*](#)

The New Century Hymnal #212

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts)

GIFT OF MUSIC

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Sebastian Temple, arr. Mark Bernard
Chancel Choir

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Jude 1:17-25

CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:5-15
Mathew 11:28-30

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Spirit of the Living God

The New Century Hymnal #283

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me:

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

MEDITATION

What is H-E-Double Hockey Sticks?

The Rev. Diann H. Bailey

***OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done,

Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.

Offering Prayer

God of all good gifts, who gives freely to us, have mercy on us and grant us the peace that only the Prince of Peace can provide.

Grant that our lives would be an offering, and that our work would be a good gift, just as the gifts that the magi brought, pleasing to you and fit for the king of all creation. We look to you, our Prophet, Priest and King, to rule the world with justice, and to give salvation to all who call upon you. Amen

***HYMN**

[*Forty Days and Forty Nights*](#)

The New Century Hymnal #205

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Glory of These Forty Days

J. Klug, arr. Noel Jones

(During the Postlude, you may use the time for personal reflection, greet your neighbor, or exit for coffee time in the Ebenezer Gay Room.)

~~~~~  
The chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God in loving memory of Gary W. Adams, brother of Roger Adams and brother-in-law of Emily Dickinson-Adams. He passed away at home on March 20th after a prolonged illness. With everlasting love, from the Adams family.

Join us in the Gay Room following worship for our Coffee & Conversation time, graciously hosted by Anita Wardell.

Our Going the Extra Mile Offering for March supports Cancer House of Hope in Springfield, MA. Dealing with cancer is never easy, so Cancer House of Hope wants to help people and their families deal with it together and feel supported, providing care and comfort to men and women in treatment, survivors, and family members through a variety of programs and therapies. Learn more in the Weekly Witness.

Our Lenten Offering supports Heifer International once again! Since 1944, Heifer has helped families in over 125 countries, promoting self-sufficiency through livestock. Families are encouraged to share their animals, empowering communities and supporting education. With your contributions, we can provide various animals, such as a flock of chicks for \$20, a hive of honeybees for \$30, a pig, sheep, or goat for \$120, a water buffalo for \$250 and/or a heifer for \$500! We encourage you to consider increasing your gift to \$1.00 or more this season!

**Today's Worship Leaders:**

The Rev Diann H. Bailey, Senior Minister

Amy Pott, Director of Worship Arts

Leeayn Burke, Lay Leader

Lynnae Labato, Lisa Nappi, and Rowan Pott, section leaders

Robin Zatony, Deacon Greeter

Nancy LaPlante, Message for All Ages

Sara Schulz & Pete Schulz, Ushers

Zak Wosko, Video and Audio Technician

Cyndie DeMur, Chancel Guild

Amber Bigley, Office Manager

**Notes about our worship service:**

- \*(Asterisk) Please stand together in body or in spirit.
- Words in **Bold**, we speak together as a congregation.
- Our order of worship, hymn lyrics, unison readings, prayers and responses are projected on the monitors.
- Gifts of offering can be mailed to the church or placed in the offering plate; utilize online-giving through the church giving site or Venmo.
- Thank you to all our Hands on Faith Volunteers!
- First Church is a *Green Church*. We encourage use of QR bulletins and electronic giving.

# O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns

Matt. 23:37-39; Luke 13:34-35

Bradford Gray Webster, 1954; alt.

1 O Je-sus Christ, may grate-ful hymns be ris-ing, in ev-ery  
 2 Grant us new cour-age, nev-er proud, but hum-ble, strong in your  
 3 Show us your Spir-it, brood-ing o'er each cit-y, as you once

cit-y for your love and care; In-spire our wor-ship, grant the  
 strength to ven-ture and to dare; To lift the fall-en, guide the  
 wept a-bove Je-ru-sa-lem, Seek-ing to gath-er all in

glad sur-pris-ing that your blessed Spir-it rous-es ev-ery-where.  
 ones who stum-ble, seek out the lone-ly and God's mer-cy share.  
 love and pit-y, and heal-ing those who touch your gar-ment's hem.

[Click here to return to bulletin](#)

## Forty Days and Forty Nights

George Hunt Smyttan, 1856; alt.

Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 2:18

1 For-ty days and for-ty nights you were fast-ing in the wild;  
 2 Shall we not your sor-row share and from world-ly joys ab-stain,  
 3 Then if Sa-tan on us press, flesh or spir-it to as-sail,  
 4 So shall we have peace di-vine: ho-lier glad-ness ours shall be;  
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sav-ior dear, ev-er con-stant by your side;

For-ty days and for-ty nights tempt-ed, and yet un-de-filed.  
 Fast-ing with un-ceas-ing prayer, strong with you to suf-fer pain?  
 Vic-tor in the wil-der-ness, grant that we not faint or fail!  
 'Round us, too, shall an-gels shine, such as served you faith-ful-ly.  
 That with you we may ap-pear at the e-ter-nal Eas-ter-tide.

The son of a doctor in Bombay, George Hunt Smyttan became a priest in the Church of England. He published several collections of verse. This hymn was one of three Lenten hymns that appeared in The Penny Post (1856).

Tune: HEINLEIN 7.7.7.7.  
 Attrib. to Martin Herbst, 1676

[Click here to return to bulletin](#)

Works Cited:

Call to Worship: Christine Longhurst, re:Worship

Invocation: John Birch, Faith and Worship. <http://www.faithandworship.com/>

Pastoral Prayer: Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

Offering: Thomas Turner, Everyday Liturgy. <http://everydayliturgy.com/prayer-for-epiphany/>

Pilgrim Hymnal © 1931, 1935, 1958 Pilgrim Press, All right reserved. Reprinted/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-739199.

New Century Hymnal © 1995 Pilgrim Press, All right reserved. Reprinted/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-739199.

**First Church of Christ, Congregational  
United Church of Christ (UCC)  
81 High Street, Suffield CT 06078  
860-668-7223**

Like us on **Instagram** and **Facebook!**  
**Office@fcsuffield.org**  
**www.firstchurchsuffield.org**  
Subscribe to our **YouTube Channel!**