

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

**April 3, 2022**



Photo by Adam Nieścioruk

**5th Sunday in Lent**

**Ministers: All who are a part of this church**

**Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere**

**Musician: Chandler Litrest**

**Choir Director: Ann Russ**

**Peace Candle Lighter:**

**Liturgist: Barb Bottger**

**Gathering Music**

**Words of Welcome**

## **Words to Enter Worship (Philippians 3:4b-14)**

**People who love worship: If anyone else has reason to be confident in works, let's not compare. Whatever gains we have, let us regard them as loss because of Christ.**

**People who love scripture: For Christ's sake, we suffer loss, but through that loss, Christ draws near. We can be found in Christ, not because of our own efforts, rather because of faith in the grace of God.**

**People who love singing: We want to know Christ and the power of resurrection. By sharing the suffering of this world and of death, we may become empowered with love and compassion.**

**People who love liturgy: In our suffering we are strain forward to what lies ahead. We press onward towards the goal of the heavenly kindom.**

## **Words of Lament**

**Merciful God, we gather back together remembering the nearly one million people in our country who have died because of this pandemic. We gather back together knowing there were many people who died because of overdose, suicide, and violence linked to isolation and loneliness. We gather back together knowing we may again have to be in isolation sometime in the future. Wail, O LORD, wail for ones who are lost, the ones died alone, and the families who are waiting to gather to say goodbye. Help us to move through our grief. Help us, merciful God, help us. Amen.**

## **Words of Blessing (Psalm 126)**

**One: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.**

**Many: Then our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. And then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

**All: The LORD has don great things for us, and we rejoiced.**

**One: Restore our lives, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

**Many: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

**All: those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall bring home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

## Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

### Peace Poem and Introduction

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

### Pandemic

by Rev. Enno K. Limvere

In a moment, the world tripped and fell.  
We waited for it to bounce up and keep going.  
It stood and teetered and fell again.  
It stood and teetered and fell again.  
It's standing up more slowly, taking a cautious step  
Knees are bleeding through the pants.  
It doesn't walk or run, but shuffles forward,  
Ever alert for uneven ground,  
but looking for a place to sit, to rest,  
and bandage its wounds.  
The world tripped and fell,  
We are waiting for it to heal.

### Passing of Peace

### Scripture Readings

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture** John 12:1-8 (Common English Bible)

**12** Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, home of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> Lazarus and his sisters hosted a dinner for him. Martha served and Lazarus was among those who joined him at the table. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took an extraordinary amount, almost three-quarters of a pound,<sup>[a]</sup> of very expensive perfume made of pure nard. She anointed Jesus' feet with it, then wiped his feet dry with her hair. The house was filled with the aroma of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), complained, <sup>5</sup> "This perfume was worth a year's wages!<sup>[b]</sup> Why wasn't it sold and the money given to the poor?" (<sup>6</sup> He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief. He carried the money bag and would take what was in it.)

<sup>7</sup> Then Jesus said, "Leave her alone. This perfume was to be used in preparation for my burial, and this is how she has used it. <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you won't always have me."

## **Children's Message A Big Gift**

**Message:** Preparing for Death

## **Musical Reflections**

**Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, Mother God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. The kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

**Our Time of Giving – One Great Hour of Sharing**

**News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community**

**Sending Music**

**Benediction**