

First Congregational Church of Georgetown



Our Church Mission Statement:

*“To nurture those in our own faith community and
to act on our faith by reaching out to others.”*

*We are an Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ.*



Order of Worship
March 9th, 2025
First Sunday in Lent

Robert Knapp, Director of Music

Emily Knapp, Organist

PRELUDE

“Whispering Hope”

Alice Hawthorne

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

“Invention #13”

Rachel & Michelle

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rachel Angerhofer

One: Come, beloved of God, the season of Lent begins—an invitation to journey deeper into the heart of grace.

All: We come, seeking God’s presence in the quiet, ready to listen and be transformed.

One: In the stillness, we face what is broken, yet we do not face it alone.

All: God’s mercy meets us here, not with shame, but with love that restores.

One: Christ calls us to walk in truth, to embrace the work of healing, to surrender what holds us back.

All: With open hearts, we seek renewal. With trusting spirits, we step toward hope.

One: Then let us worship God who calls us, sustains us, and leads on a path of grace.

All: Let us worship the One who calls us beloved, who leads us to wholeness, who makes all things new.

*HYMN

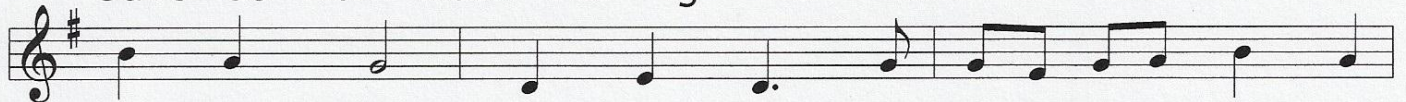
God of Grace and God of Glory

Harry Emerson Fosdick

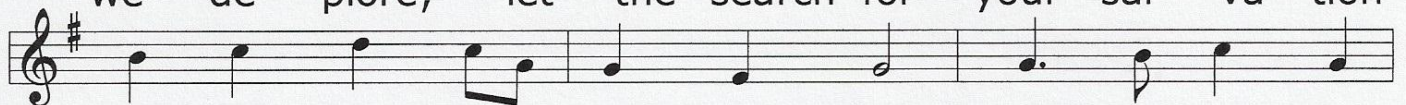
John Hughes



God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -
Cure your child - ren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vil



pour your power; now ful - fill your chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us,
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom,
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
be our glo - ry ev - er more. Grant us wis - dom,



grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this hour,
grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these days,
grant us cour - age, lest we miss your heav'n - ly goal,
grant us cour - age, serv - ing you whom we a - dore,



for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your heav'n - ly goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Words © 1930 Elinor Fosdick Downs - Music 1907

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you

ALL: And, also with you

Invitation to Share the Peace

UNISON PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, you hold us, but in times of stress, we fear that we are all alone. We hunger for easy comfort, even knowing that our appetite will return. We aim for power over uncertainty, forgetting that control is an illusion. Forgive us for choosing distraction to escape from chaos. Bring our focus back to you, to your word and your presence, as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us,

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

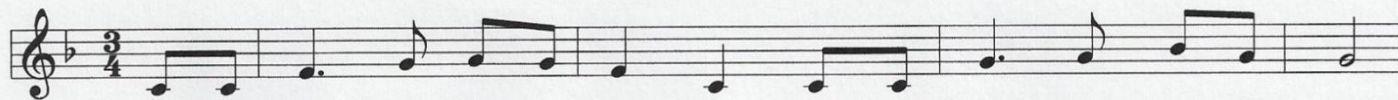
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

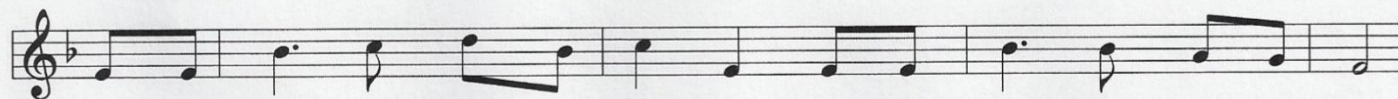
Natalie Sleeth



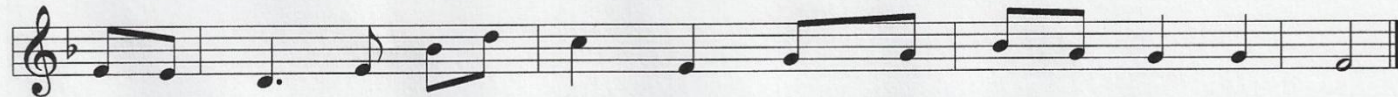
In the bulb there is a flow - er, in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise, but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life e - ter - ni - ty,



in the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

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SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 10: 5-15

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction

between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”

MESSAGE

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY

“Daddy Sang Bass”

Woodwinds

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all creat-ures here be - low;
Praise God for all that love has done; Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Spir - it, One. A - men.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

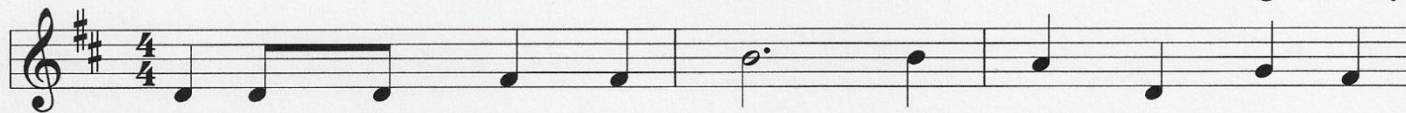
Dear God, use these gifts, and our lives, to feed and nourish, spreading your love where it is most needed. Amen.

*HYMN

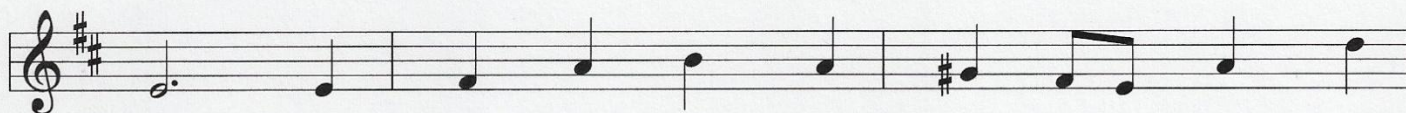
Jesus, the Lord of Life

Unknown

George J. Elvey



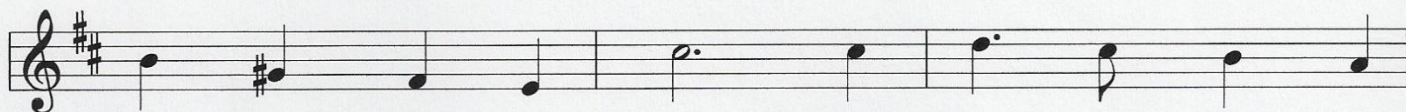
Je - sus, the Lord of life, re - veal your-self a -
Je - sus, the Lord of love, come teach us how to
Je - sus, the Lord of Peace, speak to our troub-led
Je - sus, the Lord of Hope, de - scend up - on our



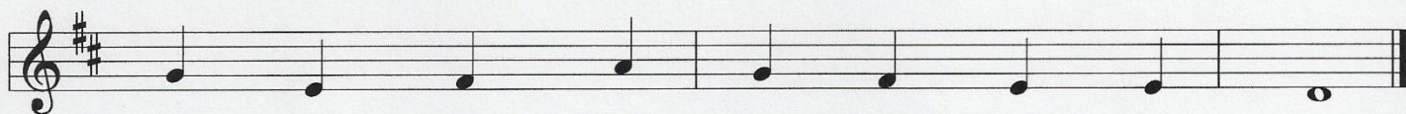
new. Re - move our doubt, in - crease our faith, give
live. Break down our walls, re - move our masks, and
earth. Strike down our pride, build up our trust, give
way. Shut off the past, make plain the now, point



us a wi - der view. That we might see your hand in
make us free to give; That we your spir - it show in
us a sec-ond birth; That we be re - con-ciled and
to a bet-ter day; That in your com-pa - ny, and



face and field and sky, and so with thank - ful
acts and words and thoughts, and with your chil - dren
cease to war and kill, thus learn to see the
charged with zeal and will, we strive to meet the



hearts and minds, up - on your grace re - ly.
ev' - ry - where, be joined in minds and hearts.
good all 'round, and so our Sav - ior's will.
com - ing age with ev' - ry prom - ise filled.

BLESSING

Friends, God knows your hunger and fills you with love.
As you are nourished, go and share that love with the world.
May you trust that God's blessings surround you,
God's grace sustains you,
and God's peace goes with you—today and always.
Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

“Blessed Assurance”

Fanny Crosby

*The steeple is lit in March in remembrance of Gloria Webster
By Jo Anne Kelly*

MEETINGS & OTHER HAPPENINGS

Sunday 3/9

12 Noon Diaconate

Tuesday 3/11

12PM: Women's Guild

Bring your own salad/sandwich, dessert is provided.

6PM Finance

6:30PM Bell Choir

7:30PM Band

Wednesday 3/12

7PM Missions

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers The Congregation
Pastor
Director of Music..... Robert Knapp
Organist.....Emily Knapp
Sexton Kimberlee Knapp
Office Administrator Julie Bernier
Moderator Rich Brock
Clerk Toni Cassidy
Finance Robert Knapp
Diaconate Rachel Angerhofer
Property JoAnne Kelly and Tom Johnson
Missions Rachel Angerhofer
Collector Robert Knapp
Bookkeeper Rich Brock
Member-at-Large Alecia Balduf

*Anyone wishing to support the church by lighting the steeple
is invited to make a donation.*

Church Office Hours Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Office Phone: (978) 352-8443

Office Email: churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org

Website: www.fccgeorgetownma.org

WELCOME

If you are a visitor from “near or far” and would like to learn more about our congregation and its ministries, please speak with an usher and/or greeter. You may also sign the visitors card found in the pews and place it in the offering plate. Please indicate whether you would like a call or visit from the pastor.

A COMMUNITY THAT AIMS FOR HOSPITALITY

We are delighted you have come to join us on this Sunday. First Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, which means that wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here. We have large print bulletins, hearing assistance devices, wheelchair and elevator accessibility, and all-gender restrooms. Please let us know if you still have difficulties hearing. While we hope to anticipate needs, please share any ideas you have for ways to expand our accessibility for all.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

We believe that children help complete our worship experience. We encourage children to be an active part of worship; this is where they learn the most about the Christian family—by experiencing it! Encourage your child to sing along, clap, wiggle, offer prayer requests, and join in communion.

LIGHT THE CHURCH FUND

Contributions for lighting the church steeple can be made in memory of loved ones or in honor of someone special. If you would like to contribute or need more information, please contact Robert Knapp at 978-352-7489.

MEMORIAL FUND

This is a wonderful and meaningful way to pay tribute to family or friends who have gone before us. A gift to the Church's Memorial Fund is always timely and names of those we love live on with all of us as we remember them over the years. Gifts can be mailed or placed in the offering, be sure to note who is being honored with this gift.

FLOWER CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to contribute flowers or make a monetary donation for the Communion Table for an anniversary, birthday, or special occasion please contact Nancy Aberman at 978-457-5924.

Coming Saturday, March 22nd

