

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
34 South Main Street
Rochester, NH 03867
(603) 948-1225 or (603) 948-1179
Email at Office@firstumcrochester.org

February 25, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

(* *The congregation is invited to stand as able
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds*

THE CHURCH GATHERS

SILENT PRAYER AND TIME FOR CENTERING

PRELUDE: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness *Duet*

Chorus

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness

Blow through the wilderness calling and free

Spirit, Spirit of restlessness

Stir me from placidness wind, wind on the sea

1 You moved on the waters you called to the deep
Then You coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep
And over the eons you called to each thing
Wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings

2 You swept through the desert you stung with the sand
And You goaded Your people with a law and a land
And when they were blinded with their idols and lies
Then You spoke through Your prophets to open their eyes

3 You sang in a stable you cried from a hill
Then You whispered in silence when the whole world was still
And down in the city you called once again
When You blew through Your people on the rush of the wind

4 You call from tomorrow you break ancient schemes
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams
Our women see visions our men clear their eyes
With bold new decisions your people arise

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CALL TO WORSHIP **

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

Lent calls us to journey:

**to the place where God covenants with us,
to receive the new names we are given.**

Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.

Lent calls us to worship together,

to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Lent calls us to journey with God.

**Let us worship God, who walks with us,
this and every day.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

He Leadeth Me

440

1 He lead - eth me: O bless - ed thought! O words with heaven - ly
 2 Some - times mid scenes of deep - est gloom, some - times where E - den's
 3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur
 4 And when my task on earth is done, when, by thy grace, the
 com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I be, still 'tis God's
 flow - ers bloom, by wa - ters calm, o'er trou - bled sea, still 'tis God's
 nor re - pine; con - tent, what - ev - er lot I see, since 'tis my
 vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through
 hand that lead - eth me.
 hand that lead - eth me. He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me; by
 God that lead - eth me.
 Jor - dan lead eth me.
 his own hand he lead - eth me: his faith - ful fol - lower
 I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

Words: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862, P.D.

Music (AUGHTON/HE LEADETH ME 8.8.8.8 D): William B. Bradbury, 1864, P.D.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION **

God, we humble ourselves now in confession:

**We want to be followers of Jesus,
but we do not always want to follow Jesus.**

We don't even want to listen

when the conversation turns toward darkness and death.

We prefer to indulge ourselves.

We are eager to put down our crosses.

We cling tightly to our lives.

We grasp at worldly rewards.

Holy and loving God,

forgive all of our thoughts and actions

that would protect us from the path of Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE **

God hears our words and make us new,

sending us out to bring hope and joy to all the world.

We hear the good news,

we believe the good news,

we will live out the good news.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

[Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](#)

(Pgs. 11-12) **

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

CHILDREN MESSAGE: (WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT)

***HYMN OF PREPARATION No. 2152**

Change My Heart Oh God

CHANGE MY HEART

Chorus

*Change my heart oh God
make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
may I be like You*

Verse

You are the potter
I am the clay
Mold me and make me,
this is what I pray.

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GOSPEL LESSON: [Mark 8:31-38](#)

(Pg. 820) **

Please remain standing for the Gospel Lesson

For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

71

Glory Be to the Father

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.

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GREATOREX
Irr.

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SERMON

*“People of the NEW COVENANT –
Midterm Exam”*

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

*HYMN

Take Up Thy Cross

415

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1. "Take up thy cross," the Sav - ior said, "if thou wouldst
2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak
3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy
4. Take up thy cross and fol - low Christ, nor think till

my dis - ci - ple be; de - ny thy - self, the
spir - it with a - larm; his strength shall bear thy
fool - ish pride re - bel; thy Lord for thee the
death to lay it down; for on - ly those who

world for - sake, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
spir - it up, and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.
cross en - dured, to save thy soul from death and hell.
bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

WORDS: Charles W. Everest, 1833 (Mt. 16:24-25; Mk. 8:34-35; Lk. 9:23-24)
MUSIC: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

GERMANY
LM

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER SONG

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying /
Dios, oye el ruego de tus hijos



Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing,
Dios, o - ye el rue - go de tus hi - jos;



Lord, send your Spir - it in this place;
Dios, pon tu Es - pí - ri - tu a - quí;



Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Send us
Dios, o - ye el rue - go de tus hi - jas; da - nos



love, send us pow'r, send us grace!
paz y tu a - mor has - ta el fin.

Text: Ken Medema, b.1943; tr. by María Eugenia Cornou, b.1969
Tune: CHILDREN PRAYING, 9 8 9 9; Ken Medema, b.1943
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INVITATION TO PRAYER:

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

[The Lord's Prayer](#)

(UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG (As above)

[Presentation of Tithes and Offerings](#)

During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Duet

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Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures

here below; praise him above, ye heavenly

host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674
MUSIC: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

OLD 100th
LM

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Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

1. I am weak but thou art strong;
2. Through this world of toil and snares,
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er,
Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee,

Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
Time for me will be no more;
Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea;

I'll be sat - is - fied as long
Who with me my bur - den shares?
Guide me gen - tly, safe - ly o'er
Dai - ly walk - ing close to thee,

As I walk, let me walk close to thee.
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
To thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Text: Anonymous
Tune: CLOSER WALK, 777 8; anonymous

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*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Grace Alone *Duet*

Verse 1

Ev'ry promise we can make
 Ev'ry prayer and step of faith
 Ev'ry diff'rence we will make
Is only by His grace
Ev'ry mountain we will climb
 Ev'ry ray of hope we shine
 Ev'ry blessing left behind
Is only by His grace

Chorus

*Grace alone which God supplies
Strength unknown He will provide
Christ in us our Cornerstone
We will go forth in grace alone*

Verse 2

Ev'ry soul we long to reach
 Ev'ry heart we hope to teach
 Ev'rywhere we share His peace
Is only by His grace
Ev'ry loving word we say
 Ev'ry tear we wipe away
 Ev'ry sorrow turned to praise
Is only by His grace

CCLI Song # 2335524

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VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Liturgist: Robert Miles
Video and Sound Engineer: Alex Wilderman
Guest Musicians: Ted and Wendy Hagarty

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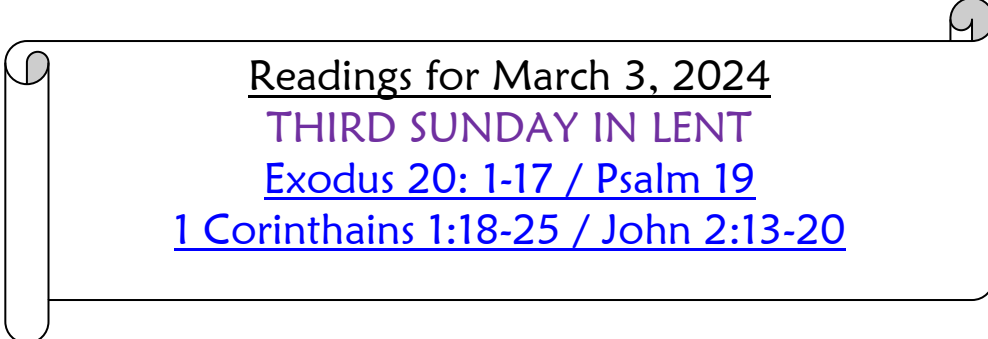
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***Worship elements by Steve Garnass Holmes at unfoldinglight.com

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Looking Ahead



Readings for March 3, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
Exodus 20: 1-17 / Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25 / John 2:13-20

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