
First Congregational Church

March 22, 2020



Fourth Sunday in Lent

2610 East Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska
(907) 272-8363 – www.fccak.org

Responsive Reading (adapted from Psalm 23)

ONE: God, You are my shepherd, I shall not want.

ALL: You lead me to rest in the sweet grasses, to lie down by the quiet waters. You restore my soul.

ONE: You lead me in right paths that unwind the pattern of Your name.

ALL: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not fear; for you are with me; comforting me with your rod and your staff, showing each step.

ONE: You prepare a table before me in the midst of my adversity; you anoint my head with oil; surely my cup is overflowing.

ALL: Goodness, kindness, and mercy will follow me all the days of my life. And in the days beyond I will always live within Your house.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said,

“Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Musical Offering

Children’s Moment

Invitation to Giving

Dedication of Gifts (unison)

Faithful God, let these gifts be like food and drink in the wilderness for those who have suffered and longed for your presence. May these offerings strengthen those who are resisting temptation and lead us to attend to all who need your healing touch. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our example and savior. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

New Zealand Prayer Book, pg 181

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-Bearer, Life-Giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the
world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For your reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and
forever. Amen.**

Hymn: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" **No. 67**

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
From everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sights, are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Second Reading: 1 Samuel 8:4-18

⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵ and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.” ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to govern us.” Samuel prayed to the Lord, ⁷ and the Lord said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. ⁸ Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. ⁹ Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

¹⁰ So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹ He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; ¹² and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. ¹⁵ He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. ¹⁶ He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. ¹⁷ He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. ¹⁸ And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day.”

Sermon:

Rev. Jacob Poindexter

Hymn: "Loving Spirit" **No. 244**

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be –
You have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.

Like a mother you enfold me, hold my life within your own,
Feed me with your very body, form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father you protect me, teach me the discerning eye,
Hoist me up upon your shoulder, let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in your closeness I am known and held and blessed:
In your promise is my comfort, in your presence I may rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be –
You have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude: "Toccata from Suite Gothique" Leon Boellmann

News from the Pews

Lectio Divina – Tuesdays, at 10:00 am; www.whereby.com/fccak/program

Remembering 400 Years – **Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 6 pm**; March 10th-April 1st. This class will focus on 4 aspects of early Congregationalism in North America. www.whereby.com/fccak/program



Roots of Joy: Creating Quiet – **Tuesdays, at 7:00 pm**. A service that explores other ways to engage our faith and spirituality together. Music, prayers, readings, and times of silence will be the central aspects of the service throughout Lent.

www.whereby.com/fccak/program

Value Village Fundraiser – Postponed until May 23rd; watch for additional updates as we learn more. Gather all gently used clothing, accessories, linens, and household items in boxes or bags, and we will set a date for the collection.

April Aires – Postponed until we have more information to make a decision.



Afternoon Tea at FCC

Fellowship Ministry is inviting you and your family to Afternoon Tea, every day at 4:00 pm, beginning this coming Monday, March 23. Brew up a cup of your favorite tea to go with that scone you now have time to bake and join us in the **online** Fellowship room. It's an informal gathering like we have for an hour after Sunday's worship service, so we have no set topic or purpose other

than sharing and support. www.whereby.com/fccak/fellowship

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting – **Sunday, April 19th, 2020** after the worship service. We must have a quorum to conduct business, so please plan to stay for the meeting or fill out a proxy form prior to the meeting. The *Call to Meeting* document from Moderator Louise Smith is on the Narthex table, as well as proxy forms. **Church Council is working on a contingency plan, in case we are not able to meet this date.**

Sunday Worship – Online!

Joining FCC worship service by video:

-Click this link, or type it into your browser: <https://zoom.us/j/714054878>

Desktop/laptop:

-If you are using a computer or laptop, you may be prompted to open the Zoom app. If you do not have it already, press 'cancel' and there will be a link on the page that says something like 'join from your browser'. Mac users should download Zoom app or use Chrome browser.

-When you join the service you will be asked to enter a name for others to see.

-Select 'Join audio by computer' when prompted

-You may need to give permission to use your microphone and camera. You can mute and unmute your camera and microphone in the bottom left corner of your screen.

Mobile Device:

-If you are using a mobile device you will be prompted to download the app for Zoom. Download it now to make sure you are ready.

-When you join the service you will be asked to enter a name for others to see.

-You may need to give permission to use your microphone and camera. You can mute and unmute your camera and microphone in the bottom left corner of your screen.



Test: Feel free to test this process anytime. The live feed will begin Sunday around 10:00 am, service starts at 10:30 am

Join by Phone (audio only):

You can call into the service. The process goes like this:

-Call this number: (301) 715-8592

-Enter this meeting ID number: 714 054 878

-You do not need a participant ID number, just press the # key when prompted.

-That's it! Your phone will be automatically muted when you enter in the meeting.

-You can mute and unmute your phone by pressing: *6

Test: Feel free to test this process anytime. The live feed will begin Sunday around 10:00 am, service starts at 10:30 am

Stay Connected – Online!

Classes and meetings:

Regular classes and meetings will still happen. They will be held remotely at the links below. All you need to do is click or enter the link and join the room. You may be prompted to allow use of your camera and/or microphone.

www.whereby.com/fccak/meeting

- Ministry Meetings
 - Deacon meetings - as needed
 - Council - as needed
 - Other Ministries will be scheduled as needed.

www.whereby.com/fccak/program

- Lectio Divina (lectionary group)
 - Tuesdays at 10:00am
- Remembering 400
 - Tuesdays at 6:00pm
- Roots of Joy
 - Tuesdays at 7:00pm
 - Our current series: *Creating Quiet*. We will share prayers, story readings, time of quiet, and conversations.

Fellowship/Pastoral Hours

The Fellowship link is where people can check-in with each other and where Rev. Jacob will hold pastoral hours each day, though you can also call or email.

www.whereby.com/fccak/fellowship

- Pastoral video-office hours
 - Every day: 1:00pm and 8:00pm
 - If conversations require confidentiality, others may have to wait a brief time before entering the room.
- Afternoon Tea
 - Daily at 4:00 pm, starting March 23rd.
 - Informal gathering similar to a Sunday Fellowship Hour.
- Chatting with friends
 - Anytime other than pastoral hours

Did you know Charles Sheldon...

In 1896, a series of Sunday sermons by the Rev. Charles Sheldon, pastor of First Congregational Church in Topeka, became one of the best selling novels of all time. Each sermon was a chapter in a story about the transformation of a town whose residents vowed to live by the slogan, “What Would Jesus Do?”

In *His Steps* imagined how different the world would be if Christians lived by the ethical teaching of Jesus. The story begins when a down and out visitor in town, whose appeals for help had been ignored by the pastor and other members, stands up in a Sunday church service and says to the congregation, “I heard you sing, All for Jesus, and your pastor preached that Christians must follow in the steps of Jesus. There is an awful lot of trouble in the world that somehow wouldn’t exist if all the people who hear such sermons and sing such songs went and lived them out.” The Pastor, deeply convicted issued a challenge to the congregation, “I want volunteers from First Church who will pledge themselves for an entire year not to attempt anything without first asking the question, ‘What would Jesus do?’”

In *His Steps* captured perfectly the spirit of the Social Gospel movement in this one compelling phrase. Rev. Sheldon supported the equality of the races, women’s right to vote, and the compassionate treatment of animals, because he believed that is what Jesus would do.

...was a Congregationalist?

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism
Learn more about our Congregational History at nacc.org

New Prayer Concerns

Karen Wasko, mother of Paul Wasko
Family & friends of Anne Sharyon, mother of Kathy Means
Peggy Jones, sister of Claudia Kniefel

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Jeff Woodard, friend of Eric Johnson & Marilyn Lee
Cathy White and her family
Hilde Errico, family of Marcie & Greg Errico
Bob Reupke, husband of Toni Reupke
Barbara & Don May, great grandparents of Reagan & Avery Binek
Nicholas Nelson, friend of Erin Binek
Margaret Webber, friend of Barbara Bowerman and Pam Wright
Joe's daughter, friend of Harry and Elisabeth Kachline
Mary Anne's mother, friend of Harry and Elisabeth Kachline
Paul Chapin, cousin of Chris Walker
Family of Ian White, director of Crow Creek Pipe & Drum
Nicole Johnson, niece of Eric Johnson and Marilyn Lee
Hans Roar Nilssen, father-in-law of Marilyn Lee's daughter
Wayne Pratt, brother of Sharon Higgins
Sunny Bird, friend of Chris Walker
Jacob Kreuzenstein; grandson of Peggy Kreuzenstein
Charlene Demshki, mother of Ginger Smith
Elizabeth Amber, family of Nathan and Jenna Amber
Lillian Soth, granddaughter of Jeanette and Fermen Dillon

Deaths

Robert Spivey, uncle of Julie McClure
Ray Bauer, brother-in-law of Don Coates
Aunt of Amana Mbise
Dr. Donald McLean, family dentist of the Walker family
Daniel Sopcak, friend of Caroline Valentine
Judge Bob Erwin, friend of Deb & Dennis Stauffer

For all the teachers, aides, staff and volunteers who educate our children;
for first responders, those serving in the military, and those that serve our
community in a variety of ways; for the peacekeepers and public servants;
for those in our community who are in need and those who are struggling in
different ways; for the people with whom we are in conflict, we pray.

People of First Congregational Church

Senior Minister

Rev. Jacob L. Poindexter – (907) 272-8363 – jacobp@fccak.org

Music Ministry

Organist & Director, Northern Lights Ringers: **Caroline Valentine**

Chancel Choir Director: **Lori Parker Wasko**

Contacts

Admin. Assistant & Editor: **Krystal Poindexter** – 272-8363, office@fccak.org

Church Sexton: **Scott McClure** – 350-9148

Wedding Coordinator: **Sandra Skaggs** – 223-7659

This Sunday's Communion table flowers were donated by Peggy Kreuzenstein, in memory of Rev. Paul Kreuzenstein.

Flowers provided by Evalyn's Floral

If you'd like to sign up for flowers for April, we will continue to order from Evalyn's to support a local business. We will make arrangements for the flowers to be delivered to someone/someplace to share some cheer with those that may feel isolated during this time. You can contact the church office to sign up, and suggest a destination for the arrangement.

Connect - Get Involved - Share a Prayer Request. Fill out one of the connect cards located in the back of the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering.

Hearing-Assist System

Connect directly to a smart device with Bluetooth hearing aids or traditional headphones.

1. Download the AudioFetch app: 
2. Connect to Wi-Fi signal: FCCAK HEARING ASSIST
3. Make sure hearing aid is Bluetooth connected
4. Open AudioFetch app and enjoy the sound!

Member: National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. 



www.facebook.com/fccak.org

Online Giving

In addition to cash or checks, First Congregational Church accepts donations and pledge payments securely online with a credit card.

-Scan the QR code or go to www.fccak.org/give.

Thank you for your financial participation in the work of First Congregational Church of Anchorage!



Remember: All gatherings, including worship, are online only until at least 03/31/20, though that date is subject to change.

First Congregational Church of Anchorage March 2020

Outreach: Hats, Gloves, Socks, Scarves, NICU Blankets

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:30am Worship	23 4pm Afternoon Tea	24 10am Lectio Divina 11:30am Staff Meeting 4pm Afternoon Tea 6pm Remembering 400 Years Class 7pm Roots of Joy	25 4pm Afternoon Tea	26 4pm Afternoon Tea	27 4pm Afternoon Tea	28 9am Organist
29 Family Sunday Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:30am Worship	30	31 10am Lectio Divina 11:30am Staff Meeting 6pm Remembering 400 Years Class 7pm Roots of Joy	1 5:15pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	2 10am Soup Group	3	4 9am Organist
5 Palm Sunday 9am Choir 9:30am Intergenerational Handbell Practice 10:30am Worship & Sunday School 11:30am Fellowship 12:15pm Outreach Mtg	6 6pm Community Bell Choir	7 10am Lectio Divina 11:30am Staff Meeting 7pm Roots of Joy	8 5:15pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	9 Maundy Thursday 10am Soup Group 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service @ First Christian Church	10 Good Friday 7pm Good Friday Service	11 9am Organist
12 Easter Sunday 7:45am Sunrise Service 8:30am Easter Breakfast 8:45am Handbells 9:30am Choir 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship	13 Easter Monday 6pm Community Bell Choir	14 10am Lectio Divina 11:30am Staff Meeting 3:30pm Stewardship Mtg 7pm Roots of Joy	15 3:30pm Fellowship Mtg 5:15pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir	16 10am Soup Group 6pm Worship Mtg	17 6pm Family Game Night	18 9am Organist

Color Key - Black: Worship, Blue: FCC Activities, Purple: FCC Partnership Activities