



# First Congregational Church

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## Third Sunday in Lent Communion Sunday

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20 March 2022



*Enter with a spirit of preparation as we gather ourselves for worship*

**Prelude:** "Variations on *Faithfulness*" Barr, Cherwien

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Choral Introit:** "Behold the Lamb"

**Call to Worship**

\* **Hymn:** "Dear Mother God" P. 9

\* **Responsive Reading: Psalm 63:1-8**

ONE: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

**ALL: my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

ONE: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

**ALL: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.**

ONE: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

**ALL: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips**

ONE: when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

**ALL: for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 55:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
- <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.
- <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.
- <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.
- <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;
- <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.



Prayer Response

**Second Reading: Luke 13:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup> He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

**Sermon:**

Ollie Bergh

**☞ Service of Holy Communion ☞**

*This community meal is an open table. All are welcome to share in this meal, no matter what your faith tradition may be. No matter what has led you to this moment, young and old alike come to share.*

*May this moment be a time of grace and belonging.*

**Ollie presides at communion today with special authorization from Bishop Shelley Wickstrom of the Alaska Synod of the ELCA**

**Invitation:**

ONE: We come to the table of grace. In the mercy of God, Christ Jesus was given for us to save us of our sins, and so we come and 5

meet him at the table. But let us bring our whole selves, completely honest, so we can experience Christ's grace ever more fully. I invite you to a time of confession.

ONE: God our creator,

**ALL: We confess we have sinned against you, against each other, and against all creation. We have turned from you in all our thoughts and words and deeds, in the things we have done and the things we haven't done. Forgive us, and through your Holy Spirit, create in us a clean heart, so that we may wholly focus on you in newness of life. Amen.**

ONE: In the name of Christ Jesus, I declare to all you who hear my voice the entire forgiveness of your sins. May Almighty God strengthen you by the Holy Spirit that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

**ALL: Amen.**

### **Communion Prayer:**

ONE: May God be with you.

**ALL: And also with you!**

ONE: Gather in your hearts.

**ALL: We gather together with God**

ONE: Let us give thanks to God among us.

**ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

ONE: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

ONE: We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **Words of Institution:**

ONE: You are indeed holy, and we give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son...

ONE: with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

## Preparation of the Elements

### **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

*You are invited to take the bread, and when all have been served, we will eat together. There is gluten free bread available in the center bowl for those who cannot eat wheat. When the cup is passed, please take and drink as you are ready. The red cups contain black currant juice. The clear cups contain water.*

### **Blessing after Communion: Christarashka**

ONE: May the cross of the Son of God, which is mightier than all the hosts of Satan and more glorious than all the hosts of heaven, abide with you in your going out and in your coming in. By day and by night, at morning and at evening, at all times and in all places may it protect and defend you. From the wrath of evildoers, from the assaults of evil spirits, from foes visible and invisible, from the snares of the devil, from all passions that beguile the soul and body: may it guard, protect and deliver you.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

**ALL: Gracious God, we thank you for this meal and for all of the ways you nourish us. Grow among us that we may nourish others. Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

\* Hymn: "O Living Bread from Heaven"

P. 11

\* Benediction

\* Benediction Response: "May the Grace of Christ Our Savior"



May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior And the Fa - ther's bound-less love,



With the Ho - ly Spir - it's fa - vor, Rest up - on us from a - bove.

Postlude: "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

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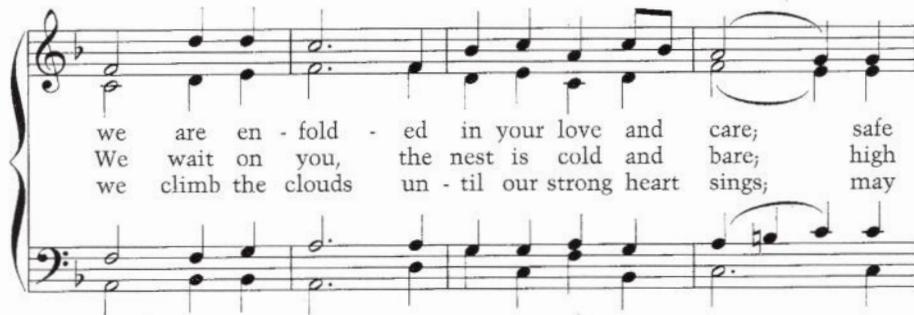
# Dear Mother God

Janet Wootton (b. 1952)

WELWYN 11 10 11 10  
Alfred Scott-Gatty (1847-1918)



1 Dear Moth - er God, your wings are warm a - round us,  
2 You call to us, for we are in your im - age.  
3 Let not our free - dom scorn the needs of oth - ers—



we are en - fold - ed in your love and care; safe  
We wait on you, the nest is cold and bare; high  
we climb the clouds un - til our strong heart sings; may



in the dark, your heart-beat's pulse sur-rounds us,  
o - ver - head your wing-beats call us on - ward.  
we en - fold our sis - ters and our broth - ers,



you call to us, for you are al - ways there.  
Filled with your power, we ride the emp - ty air.  
till all are strong, till all have ea - gles' wings.

# You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

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*Refrain*

You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin-est wheat;

come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

*Fine*

1. With joy-ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat-i - tude
2. Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
3. The mys-tery of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
4. You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

that you should count us wor-thy, Lord, to share this heav-en-ly food.  
Do not one cup, one loaf, de-clare our one-ness in the Lord?  
whom all the world can-not con-tain comes in our hearts to dwell.  
to serve each oth-er in your name in truth and char-i - ty.

*D.C.*

WORDS: Omer Westendorf, 1976  
MUSIC: Robert E. Kreutz, 1976

FINEST WHEAT  
CM w. refrain

# O Living Bread from Heaven



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!  
2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,  
3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.  
4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.  
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;  
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.  
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!  
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,  
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,  
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!  
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.  
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.  
where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.



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# Notes & Doodles

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**Easter Flower Orders**—We will be ordering assorted azaleas and cyclamen to decorate the chancel for Easter. If you would like to order flowers to take home after the Easter worship service, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the narthex table. You can also email or call the church office with your order, and we will add you to the list.

We do not have the exact pricing or order due date for the flowers yet. Evalyn's Floral has been contacted and is checking for us. Typically, we need to give them at least 2 weeks notice for the order, **so everyone that wants flowers needs to order soon!** If you make an order before we know the pricing, the office will call you to confirm that you would like your order to stay the same as soon as we know the cost. Last year, the azaleas were \$28/pot and the cyclamen were \$25/pot, but that is subject to change.

# News from the Pews

- ☆ **Council Meeting**—Today, after worship
- ☆ **Pastoral Search Committee**—Today, at 2pm (Zoom)
- ☆ **Lectio Divina**—Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am (Zoom)
- ☆ **Taizé Service**—Tuesdays at 5:45pm
- ☆ **Handbell Rehearsal**—Wednesdays at 5:15pm
- ☆ **Choir Rehearsal**—Wednesdays at 6:30pm
- ☆ **Soup Group**—Thursdays at 10am

**Guest Preacher Ollie Bergh**—Ollie is a seminarian and an associate chaplain at Providence Hospital. He's approved for ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America following his graduation in May from Wartburg Theological Seminary. Ollie grew up in Lake Oswego, Oregon and studied theatre at Western Oregon University before converting to Christianity and eventually following the call to seminary. In his spare time, he can be found experimenting in his kitchen, cooking for his wife Erika (who pastors Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church) and one year old daughter Ottilie.

**Willy Templeton**— Willy will join us again on March 27<sup>th</sup> after worship to continue the learning opportunity that we started at the end of 2021. We will be learning more about Alaska Native history, this time focusing on post-statehood



**Taizé Services**—Weekly Taizé services every Tuesday throughout Lent. Taizé services are a time of quiet contemplation with meditative music, short readings, and times of prayer. Everyone is invited to join for these relaxed and reflective services, every Tuesday during Lent at 5:45pm.



**Soup Group**— Every Thursday at 10am. The group will be working on our church history documents to send to the national archives, and sharing a lunch of soup and bread. Contact Claudia Kniefel for additional information.

New Prayer Concerns

Friends & family of Don Coates

Friends & family of Macrina Sudbeck; mother of Aimée Sudbeck

Friends & family of Mike Gannutz , cousin of Chris Walker

The Pastoral Search Committee

Our prospective minister

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Doris Stackhouse, daughter of Darlene Gilman

Kathleen Tarr; friend of Marilyn Lee & Eric Johnson

Scott McClure

Bob Reupke

Carolyn Rinehart

Ann & Steve Hutchings

Casey Graff; grandniece of Marilyn Lee

Fermen Dillon

Jeannie, family of Elisabeth & Harry Kachline

Julie, cousin of Claudia Kniefel

Sally & Tom; friends of Elisabeth & Harry Kachline

Tim Griffith; friend of Elisabeth & Harry Kachline

Elizabeth Amber; family of Jenna & Nathan Amber

Irene Stewart

Steve McKean

Christina Pike; daughter of Vivian Pike

Stan Parker; brother of Lori Wasko

John Allen

Roger Meyer; brother of Cindi Crawford

Ron Broome

Elisabeth Kachline

Mary Anne’s mother; friend of Elisabeth & Harry Kachline

Margaret Webber; friend of Barbara Bowerman & Pam Wright

Joe’s daughter; friend of Elisabeth & Harry Kachline

Barbara May; great grandma of Reagan & Avery Binek

Alice Butler; mother of Jane vonBirgelen

Nicole Johnson; niece of Eric Johnson & Marilyn Lee

Jacob Kreuzenstein; grandson of Peggy Kreuzenstein

Family of Ian White; Director, Crow Creek Pipe & Drum

Wayne Pratt; brother of Sharon Higgins

Lillian Soth; grandchild of Jeanette & Fermen Dillon

Deaths

Lois Hale; family of Susan Faith

For all the teachers, aides, staff, & volunteers who educate our children; for the 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 struggling in different ways; for the people with whom we are in conflict, we pray.

# First Congregational Church of Anchorage

2610 East Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
907.272.8363—www.fccak.org

## Guest Minister

**Ollie Bergh**  
907.272.8363

## Music Ministry

**Caroline Valentine**  
Organist and  
Director, Northern Lights Ringers  
**Lori Parker Wasko**  
Director, Chancel Choir

## Sunday Volunteers

Deacon Serving: Sandy Skaggs  
Usher Team: Barb Ross & Amana Mbise  
Greeter: Mark Zimmerman  
Liturgist: Sandy Skaggs  
Audio/Video Tech: Kathy Means  
Fellowship Host:

## **Krystal Poindexter**

Administrative Assistant  
907.272.8363—office@fccak.org

## **Olive Nyiramucyo**

Church Custodian

## **Julie McClure**

Wedding Coordinator

This week's Communion Table flowers are given by Claudia Kniefel, in honor of the 52nd anniversary of her marriage to Bob.

Flowers provided by Evalyn's Floral

## 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 plate.

Scan the QR Code to receive news and updates from FCC Anchorage in your inbox.



## Hearing-Assist System

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

1. Download the AudioFetch app:  audiofetch
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



## Member— #1700

Open & Affirming Congregation (ONA)

## 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](http://www.fccak.org/give)



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

# First Congregational Church of Anchorage

## March 2022

### Outreach: Catholic Social Services Wishlist

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 <b>Third Sunday in Lent</b> Communion Guest Preacher: Ollie Bergh 10:30am Worship & Sunday School 11:30am Fellowship 11:45am Council Mtg 2pm Pastoral Search Committee Mtg.	21 6pm Crow Creek (BR, S)	22 10am Lectio Divina 5:45pm Taize Services	23 5:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir	24 10am Soup Group	25	26 9am Organist
27 <b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> Guest Preacher: Ollie Bergh 10:30am Worship & Sunday School 11:30am Fellowship: Guest Speaker Willy Templeton	28 6pm Crow Creek (BR, S)	29 10am Lectio Divina 5:45pm Taize Services	30 5:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir	31 10am Soup Group	Apr 1	2 9am Organist
3 <b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Denise Sudbeck 10:30am Worship & Sunday School 11:30am Fellowship 11:45am Outreach Mtg 12pm Life & Learning Meeting	4 6pm Crow Creek (BR, S)	5 10am Lectio Divina 12:30pm Piano Tuning (S) 5:45pm Taize Services	6 5:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir	7 10am Soup Group 5pm Fellowship Mtg 6:30pm Investment Club	8	9 9am Organist
10 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Denise Sudbeck 10:30am Worship & Sunday School 11:30am Fellowship 12pm PF Activity	11 6pm Crow Creek (BR, S)	12 10am Lectio Divina 5pm Stewardship Mtg 5:45pm Taize Services	13 5:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir	14 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 10am Soup Group 7pm Maundy Thursday	15 <b>Good Friday</b>	16 9am Organist