



# First Congregational United Church of Christ

March 17, 2024

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Cathedral in Tartu, Estonia. Photo by Enno Limvere

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5th Sunday in Lent

Partners in Ministry: All who are a part of this church.

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Francie Beaster Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle: Ranna LeVoir Liturgist:

Greeter: Mike Carlson Usher:

Coffee Hour: Weber/Carlson Computer Operator: Nina McClune

Video Camera Operator: Stephen Aldrich

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## Gathering Music

### Words of Welcome

#### Prelude

#### Words to Enter Worship (Based on Psalm 101)

*One:* I sing of your love and justice – YHWH, I sing to you! I will be faithful in my pursuit of you; when will you come to me?

*Many:* **I will strive to be pure of heart among my peers; I will not look upon any injustice without acting. I hate crooked dealing and will have none of it.**

*One:* I look to those who keep faith with the land to make up my household; only those who follow the blameless path will I allow in my company.

*Many:* **Morning after morning I will silence those who are corrupt in the land, and remove those who cheer injustice.**

#### Opening Hymn #84 This Is the Day ([click here](#))

#### Words of Lament

**Merciful God, we too often fear the future and all the ways it could go wrong. We see the path we are heading down with global climate change and have few reasons for hope. The airways of media and posts of social media often feed our fears and anxieties. Present God who invites us to a better way and future, show us how to heal, to forgive, and trust in you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

#### Time of Silence

#### Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

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 peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

Earth Birth by Stevy Want

The time has come for peace on earth.  
A new awakening and birth.  
A world where all people live free.  
The kind of place you'd like to be.  
A new awareness of our worth.

The time has come for us to share.  
Implant sacred thoughts everywhere.  
We need to spread the love of light.  
And shine it out into the night.  
Don't be afraid to show you care.

Now is the time to awaken.  
To understand the unshaken.  
There is a continuity.  
Please seek for the acuity  
to untangle things mistaken.

Now is the time to stop the hate.  
Why put it off? Please do not wait.  
We must be free to make the turn.  
What will it take for us to learn?  
Love the Truth before it's too late.



## Passing of the Peace

Hymn #211 Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days ([click here](#))

### Scripture Readings

**1st Scripture Mark** 13:1-8, 24-37

13 As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” 2 Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

3 When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 4 “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” 5 Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. 6 Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’<sup>[a]</sup> and they will lead many astray. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. 8 For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

24 “But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”



**Children's Message** The Future!

**Choir Anthem**

**Message** Keep Woke!

**Musical Reflections**

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

**Our Father, Mother God, 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 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**

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

**Our Time of Giving**

**Doxology** NCH #785

We give you but you own,  
What-e'er the gift may be,  
All that we have is yours a-lone,  
We give it grateful-ly.

**Closing Hymn** #609 Now Is the Time Approaching ([click here](#))

**Benediction**

**Sending Music**



## Opening Hymn This is The Day

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1.This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that our God has made ,we will rejoice and be glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

2.This is the day, This is the day Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again; we will rejoice .we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day Jesus rose again, we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.

3.This is the day, this the day when the Spirit came, when the spirit came; we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day when the Spirit came, we will rejoice and be glad in it; This is the day when the Spirit came.

*This is the Day Irr.*

*Les Garrett, 1967*

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## Hymn #211 Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

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1. Lord Jesus, who through for us did fast and pray,  
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
2. As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win, O give us  
strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.
3. And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,  
Yes, evermore, in life and death, O Christ, with us abide.
4. Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past, An Easter of  
unending joy we may attain at last.

*Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.*

*Day's The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562*

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## Closing Hymn #609 Now Is the Time Approaching

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1. Now is the time approaching, by prophets long foretold, when all long foretold, when all shall dwell together, secure and manifold. Let war be learned no longer, let strife and tumult cease,  
all earth a blessed garden that God shall tend in peace.
2. Let all that now divides us remove and pass away,  
like mists of early morning before the blaze of day. Let all that now unites us sweet and lasting prove,  
closer bond union, in blessed lands of love.
3. O long-expected dawning, come with your cheering ray!  
Yet show the promise beckon and lead us not astray.  
O sweet anticipation! It cheers the watchers on on to pray, and hope,  
and labor till Christ's new realm is come.

*Tune: WEBB 7.6.7.6.D*  
*George J. Webb, 1837*  
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