

FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT Order of Worship

March 14, 2010

9:00 a.m.

“An ogre (feminine: ogress) is a large, cruel, monstrous and hideous humanoid monster, featured in mythology, folklore and fiction. The term is often applied in a metaphorical sense to disgusting persons who exploit, brutalize or devour their victims.”
- Wikipedia

***congregation stands**

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart* - arr. Valerie Stephenson
- The Handbell Choir -

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are on a journey today.

Many: A journey toward Easter.

One: We are on a journey today.

Many: The road is filled with twists and turns, potholes and sinkholes.

One: We are on a journey today.

Many: We are on a road of faith and forgiveness, a trip that will require compassion and perseverance if we are to follow the Christ.

***OPENING HYMN**

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

No. 18

Cwm Rhondda

***PRAYER of INVOCATION (In Unison)**

Loving God, source of strength when the journey of life lengthens, you have claimed us as your own, called us to follow you to the city that is set upon a hill, the holy city, Jerusalem. Each year we trudge with your son toward the ending of the story.

Prayerfully we hope that this year his love will shine through the storm clouds and he will be spared the cross. Yet we know that in each Lenten season the ogres will come, the trials will be held. Come with us on the journey. Grant unto us your strength for the road. Surround us with your love as we walk toward Easter morning. Amen.

GLORY to GOD

Glory be to the source of all things, to Jesus the Christ.
To the Great Spirit, from our beginnings to the time beyond our life.
May the light and love never end. Amen.

(The congregation may be seated.)

ANTHEM *When I Turn My Heart to Heaven* - Joseph Martin
- Thursday Knights -

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Laura VanArsdall

CHORAL CALL to PRAYER *For the Things That I Do Wrong*
- Thursday Knights -

A TIME of PRAYER
Pastoral Prayer Rev. Gloria Van Houten
Congregational Prayer Response: **I put my trust in you**

CONCERNS of the WIDER CHURCH Cindy Woodling

RECEPTION of NEW MEMBERS
We Welcome: Kim Hunt, Rev. John Mingus

Response: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

THE SHARING of OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *I Need Thee Ev'ry Hour* arr. Gilbert Martin
- Matins Choir -

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

(Repeat)

**Alleluia, sing praises to the Lamb, Alleluia Gloria!
Alleluia, we worship and adore; Alleluia to the Lord! (Repeat)**

*PRAYER of DEDICATION

*SERMON HYMN No. 193
In the Cross of Christ I Glory Rathbun

READING from the HEBREW BIBLE *Nehemiah 3: 1-5, 4:6-9* Holy Bible, page 425, 426

READING from the EPISTLES *Philippians 3: 1-9* Holy Bible, page 1070

SERMON "Battling Ogres and Demons; On the Way to the Prize" Dr. John E. Syster

THE LORD'S PRAYER (To Be Sung)

Our Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

*HYMN OF PARTING No. 400
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation Regent Square

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Vivace* -Paganni, arr. Kevin McChesney

- The Handbell Choir -

(The congregation is invited to be seated and listen to the postlude)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: GUEST BOOK: Michael Nitzsche; USHERS: Don Bouchard, captain; Bill & Mary Snyder, Russ & RuthAnn Waid; LITURGIST: Roger Weiss; SOUND SYSTEM: Bill Pallatto; COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Sue & Bill Pallatto, Julie Pennella; CHURCH BUS DRIVER: John Chapman.

ALTAR FLOWERS, dedicated to the Glory of God, are given by Michael Nitzsche.

We welcome all visitors to our church & hope you will join us for coffee hour in Fellowship Hall following the service. Please sign our guest book. Nursery Care is always available during services in the Pre-School building.

If you have a **PRAYER REQUEST**, please call Judy Eddins, 379-8404, or use the Prayer Folders available in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate. Please include your name and telephone number with your prayer request.

God is Still Speaking,

The **DEADLINE for the APRIL NEWSLETTER is Monday, March 15**. Email articles, photos with captions to Dolla Pinney, our secretary/receptionist who puts together the Newsletter, dollapinney1@aol.com. Paper copy can be left in the mailbox in the office labeled "Newsletter."

ESTHER CIRCLE (women's evening circle) will meet Monday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Joan Shuler. Guests are welcome.

CLEAN TEAM NEEDED: We are organizing a **CLEAN TEAM MINISTRY** for the purpose of coming in once or twice a month to clean areas of our church that need a little extra attention. If you are one of those fantastic people who love to clean you will no doubt enjoy working on this ministry team. If this is one of your gifts and you would like to be a part of this group, please call Kathi Taylor, 377-7674.

Our church is hosting **Coralyn & Laslo Medyesy, who serve as missionaries in Hungary**. They will be presenting their stories to the TK & Wings groups Thursday evening, March 18. Everyone is invited to a **luncheon & presentation Friday, March 19** in Fellowship Hall at noon. If interested, please sign the sheet in Fellowship Hall.

On **Tuesday, March 16**, a group from our church will start a monthly two hour work detail at the **All Faiths Food Bank**. For this one, the first time, there will be a tour of this rather large facility before the work actually starts. The time is 1-3:00 p.m. See either Pam Hendrickson or Ron VanderSchaaf or sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall on the counter by the library.

For those of you who offered to send a card to **Arden Yakimow**, her address, once again is:
6501 17th Ave. West, Rm 156, Bradenton, FL 34209.

We are seeking to fill a **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR** position here at First Congregational United Church of Christ. The job description is posted on our website at www.uccsarasota.com. This position requires experience with coordinating and administering events for children and youth. All applications are to be submitted to the Search Committee through the church office. For more information, contact Jennifer Massie at 961-9124.

SANCTUARY SPRING CLEAN-UP, Saturday, March 20. This is a day we spruce up our sanctuary for spring. Volunteers are needed. We'll gather at 8:30 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts. Bring paper towels and glass cleaner if you can. With enough volunteers we should be done by noon or so. **See you Saturday!**

2010 CROP WALK IS NEXT SUNDAY. Forty walkers are signed up, a new record for our church. We could still use more walkers but more importantly, our walkers need sponsors. For just \$20, Church World Service can feed a starving child for one month. The list of our walkers is posted on the apple tree in Fellowship Hall. Please don't wait to be asked. Pick out a walker and tell he or she that you will be a sponsor. The walker will feel good - you will feel good - and a starving child will get a new lease on life.

SECOND ANNUAL CROP WALK BAKE SALE IS NEXT SUNDAY. Last year the bake sale contributed \$500 to the total church contribution. Baked goods come from our dedicated walkers and are offered without price tags. Just come by Fellowship Hall after both services and pick out what looks good to you. Then you pay whatever you think the baked goods mean to you. 100% of the proceeds go to **CROP WALK**. Last year we finished 3rd in the state. This year our goal is to be second, Please help us. . A final thought. You can also bring a baked good for our table, Bake your favorite recipe and drop it off on your way to church. Thank you from your walkers...and the hungry children you are helping to feed.

We are hosting a **BLOOD DRIVE** Sunday, March 21 from 9:00 a.m - 12:30 p.m. here at the church. Suncoast Communities Blood Bank will be here. Help save a life!

There will be a **SURE Rally** for members of the Justice Ministry Network (those who are bringing 3 others to the Action), here at First Congregational United Church of Christ on **Monday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m.**

Movie Night is Sunday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 9. We will watch and discuss, “*Last Chance Harvey*,” with Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson. This is more than a romantic film. It is about life falling apart and new beginnings no matter one’s age. Come enjoy the movie, popcorn, and social time together.

Our Collector is looking for **two more volunteers to count the offering** on Sunday mornings, beginning in April. If you are interested in being a part of this necessary ministry of the church, please contact Kathi Hall for details, 921-6989.

ALTAR FLOWERS: We have the following dates available for sponsorship of floral arrangements. One on April 25, one on May 9, one on May 16 and two on May 23. Thank you for signing up on the chart in Fellowship Hall.

My heartfelt thanks to Dr. Syster, Rev. Van Houten, staff, members and friends of the church family for your visits, cards and kind words and prayers during Grace’s illness and passing. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. May God richly bless you all. Harry Bryce.