

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT Order of Worship

March 7, 2010

9:00 a.m.

“The second mass, commonly referred to as ‘Schubert’s Mass in G,’ was composed in less than a week (March 2 to 7, 1815), the year after his first mass had been successfully performed in Schubert’s home parish.”

Throughout this worship service, our combined Matins and Chancel Choirs will present the *MASS in G MAJOR* by Franz Schubert. Written between March 2 and 7 in 1815, this morning’s performance is 195 years to date following its premiere in the Viennese parish church of Lichental.

***congregation stands**

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Andante, from String Quartet in F, K590
Dan Jordan, Christopher Takeda, *violins*;
Michael McClelland, *viola*; Abraham Feder, *cello*

- W. A. Mozart

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the day.

Many: A day to envision a new possibility.

One: This is a day to see.

Many: A day to see beyond this moment to what might just be possible.

One: This is a day to believe.

Many: A day to believe that in God all things are possible.

*OPENING HYMN

When Innocence is Fractured

Aurelia

**When innocence is fractured by nature’s shifting force,
And paradise is ruptured as life is swept off course,
We come to pray our questions, we come to share our grief,
In this our act of worship, to say that we believe.**

**As headlines overwhelm us and make us close our minds,
As news from distant places brings death before our eyes,
We seek a hope to cling to, a refuge to embrace,
Lest in the grip of knowing, we lose our hold on grace.**

**How dare we speak of heaven made human for our sakes,
Or preach a loving Father when seas and mountains quake?
We dare because our story speaks of a love that came
To bear the cost of dying and still would do the same.**

**In Christ our souls take refuge, though not to hide from truth:
We face each anguished question with faith, if not with proof.
We hear his wistful question, “And will you leave me, too?”
Though all the world should crumble, we hope, O Christ, in you.**

*PRAYER of CONFESSION (In Unison)

God of our tomorrows, we acknowledge this day, that we have often been quick to lose sight of the vision that you have held out for us. We have allowed the city you have built to crumble with greed and jealousy and fear. We have, like the Hebrews of the past, lost track of what it is to be your people, forgotten the covenant you have made with us. Come among us this morning. Stir in us a passion to be loving and compassionate, faithful and able to dream. Grant us the forgiveness we seek, that we too might be able to forgive. Amen.

KYRIE, from *Mass in G*

- Franz Schubert

Carmen Ramsey, *soprano soloist*

Lord have mercy on us, Christ, have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE of PARDON

GLORIA, from *Mass in G*

- Franz Schubert

*For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord, thou only art most high,
With the Holy Ghost in the glory of God the Father. Amen*
****(The congregation may be seated.)****

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

A TIME of PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer

CONCERNS of the WIDER CHURCH

THE SHARING of OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Credo, from Mass in G

- Franz Schubert

(For the text, refer to the Nicene Creed #883 in the hymnal)

*DOXOLOGY

No.

782

**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

We Would Be Building

No. 607

Finlandia

READING from the HEBREW BIBLE *Nehemiah 1: 5-11* Holy Bible, page 424

READING from the EPISTLES *Philippians 1: 1-11* Holy Bible, page 1068
SERMON *The Vision* Dr. John E. Syster

THE CELEBRATION of COMMUNION

The Invitation

One: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.
you who believe in me shall never thirst.

Many: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and south, and gather about Christ's table.

One: This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Prayer of Consecration

Minister: God be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to God.
Minister: Let us give thanks to God Most High.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,* - Franz Schubert

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory

OSANNA *Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.*

Words of Institution
Sharing of the Elements
During distribution of communion:

AGNES DEI, *from Mass in G* Nancy Morris, *soprano soloist* - Franz Schubert

*O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us, grant us peace.*

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

They Did Not Build in Vain

Verse 1 only

No. 373

Leoni

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fuga, from Sonata VI

- Felix Mendelssohn

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

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WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: GUEST BOOK: Marilyn & Don Dillman; USHERS: Chuck Jarman, captain; Peg & Don Wallace, Dennis & Evelyn Crooks; LITURGIST: Susan Moore; SOUND SYSTEM: Bill Pallatto; COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Sandy & John Chapman; CHURCH BUS DRIVER: Jerry Oliver.

ALTAR FLOWERS, dedicated to the Glory of God, are given by Kate & Bob Eaton in memory of their Aunt Martha.

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.

Prayers of Healing: After the postlude of the service today, there will be a time of healing and anointing in the front right corner of the sanctuary. Dr. Syster and members of the healing team will be available to offer individual prayers of healing with any who desire these prayers.

God is Still Speaking,

FEAST March: 11:00 a.m.: *The Battle of Antietam, Prelude to the Emancipation Proclamation* - discussion, Dr. John Syster; ***Life Skills Classes for Adults Over 55:*** Jack Swanton, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.; ***Listening for the Heartbeat of God: Celtic Christian Spirituality*** - Rev. Gloria Van Houten and Greg Chestnut; ***Faith and Literature (new time!)*** - Betty Schattschneider, convenor; **1:00 p.m.: *Local Mission Tours*** - Members Board of Outreach (such as Bethesda House, Habitat for Humanity); ***Human Trafficking: A Primer for the Concerned Global Citizen*** - Jennifer Massie, Pres. Board of Directors, Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships, Inc.; ***Tai Chi*** - Marylou Anderson, instructor Taochist Tai Chi Society. (*Note - this class will have a fee of \$20 for 4 weeks, 1.5 hour class)

We will be holding a **NEW MEMBER SEMINAR TODAY** after the 11:00 a.m. service in the east Fellowship Hall. We convene at about 12:15 p.m. This seminar is for those interested in church membership and is a chance for you to learn more about the church in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere with others with the same interest. A light lunch is served.

THANK YOU to all who contributed so generously on BLANKET SUNDAY. Our final collection was \$1,666!

ATTENTION KINGS AND QUEENS BRIDGE CLUB: We are counting on seeing you **tomorrow, March 8!** Please be on time at 1:00 p.m. in Room 9 for friends, fun, food.

The **RACE DIALOGUE BOOK CLUB** meets **Tuesday, March 9 from 6-8:00 p.m.** in the west room of Fellowship Hall. The book to be discussed is "*Mirror to America: the Autobiography of John Hope Franklin*," by John Hope Franklin. Bring a brown bag supper if you like. All are welcome! Questions? Call Jim Crumel at 776-9214 or Fran Collier at 379-6142.

As part of a statewide tour, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers will bring their modern-day Slavery Museum to our community this week. It features a cargo truck outfitted as a replica of the vehicle used to enslave tomato pickers in a brutal 2007 case - the 7th agricultural slavery conviction in recent years. The museum, endorsed by Amnesty International, examines the history & evolution of slavery in Florida's fields; its roots, why it persists, & its solutions. Visit the museum for free on Thursday, **March 11 from 9am - 7pm** at New College, east of US41, south of the airport; **Friday, March 12 from 5-8pm** at Church of the Palms, 3224 Bee Ridge; **Saturday, March 13** from 9am-noon at Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, 3023 Proctor Rd.

Next Sunday, **March 14** is our annual **HEALTH FAIR**, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. There will be many medical tests & health information available free of charge. Coordinated by Julie Pennella our parish nurse, come support the many volunteers who offer health services to you.

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."

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.

CROP WALK to feed the world's hungry is coming on **March 21**. Last year Sarasota raised more than \$20,000 and finished third in the state and our church raised \$6,090 and finished best in Sarasota. We are going to do better this year but **WE NEED WALKERS!** You have a choice of walking 5 miles or 1 mile. The apple tree in Fellowship hall is now the CROP WALK tree. Be a walker, put your apple on the tree!

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** here at First Congregational United Church of Christ on **Monday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m.**

Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday! Set Clocks ahead 1 hour or you will be late for church!

