

Service of Worship
First Sunday in Lent

February 14, 2016

10:30 AM

*"I know God will not give me anything I can't handle.
I just wish [God] didn't trust me so much."*
Mother Teresa

GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Amazing Grace* Lasky

CHIMES

THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

①
Come, come, who - ev - er you are, wan - der - er,
③
wor - ship - er, lov - er of leav - ing. Ours is no car - a - van
④
of de - spair. Come, yet a - gain come.

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LITANY FOR OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

One: Here is the journey,
that moves beyond where we are now.
Come, trust the God whose journey it is.
Come, and trust in the steadfast love of God.
This is Lent. This is the journey.
All: This is Lent. This is the journey.

One: Here is the journey,
for all who long to travel.
Come, for God makes known love's path,
and invites us to follow
trusting in the steadfast love of God.
This is Lent. This is the journey.
All: This is Lent. This is the journey.

One: Here is the journey,
for all those who want to know truth.
Come, this is the way of salvation
and we wait for God's call into steadfast love.
This is Lent. This is the journey.
All: This is Lent. This is the journey.

One: Here is the journey
that takes us further than we have been before.
Come, for God leads the humble
into what is right,
Surrounded by the steadfast love of God.
This is Lent. This is the journey.
All: This is Lent. This is the journey.

***HYMN # 180** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

***OPENING PRAYER** (*Let us pray together . . .*)

One: The journey is uncertain,
the destination is known,
and its outcome is challenging to body and soul,

**All: but we travel in your steadfast love, O God.
Hold us.**

One: The story is not yet complete,
the travelers not yet arrived,
the horizon not yet crossed,

**All: but we trust your steadfast love, O God.
Call us.**

One: The footprints are before us,
the distance is far,
yet there is light out front,

**All: and we live in your steadfast love, O God.
Travel with us.**

***WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE**

One: As we journey God says to us:
I am with you,
I hold you,
I know you,
I care for you,
I travel with you,
I give myself to you,
I am on this journey with you,
and my steadfast love is with you always.
Let us travel in peace.

All: Amen.

***MUSICAL RESPONSE**



1
Come, come, who - ev - er you are, wan - der - er,
2
3
wor - ship - er, lov - er of leav - ing. Ours is no car - a - van
4
of de - spair. Come, yet a - gain come.

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LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE GOSPEL Luke 4:1-3

NT page 61

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(*Children through second grade may go to the nursery.*)

THE PSALTER Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

OT page 548

***HYMN # 77**

On Eagle's Wings

SERMON

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Musical Introduction (*Hymnal page 305*)

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

**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, forever. Amen.**

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

OFFERING

Invitation

Choral Anthem *What Does the Lord Require for Praise*

***Doxology** *(page 48 in hymnal) tune: TALLIS' CANON*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

One God triune, whom we adore. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** *(let us pray together . . .)*

**Held securely by your love, we seek to be an offering
of love to the world and to have our spirits wing free
to live again. Receive the gifts of our hands, and the
desire of our hearts, using each in your unfolding
ways. Amen.**

GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

***HYMN # 195** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

***BENEDICTION**

CHIMES

POSTLUDE *In The Cross of Christ* Bingham



**Please participate in one of
HCC's Dream Teams**

As part of our effort to discern our *New Way Forward*, the Church Council and Transition Team would like you participate on a "Dream Team." Each Team would take one of the four areas identified by the Transition Team and, in consultation with appropriate Boards, Committees, and individuals, make specific and realistic goals for the developing the accomplishment of these endeavors.

Some goals may be scheduled to be completed immediately, some within the next year, some within the next three years (after new pastor starts) and although some goals may be identified, the Dream Team may determine that no action can be taken at this time. It is hoped that each Team can accomplish its task by the end of March so that a clear plan can be delineated as the Pastor Search Committee begins their search.

Sign up today in the Russell Fellowship Room

The Four Teams

We are seeking to be a community . . .

- ▶ ***caring for each other.*** (Belinda Burtner)
- ▶ ***growing in our faith.*** (Gary Harrington)
- ▶ ***participating in outreach.*** (Bonnie Smith)
- ▶ ***maximizing our resources.*** (Jim McKenna)

Pastoral Search Committee to Form

We are making progress!!!

Now that the Transition Team has completed the first phase of study, the Church Council is preparing to name a Search Committee to continue the process of finding our next pastor. We need your help! Your input will be greatly appreciated.

The Search Committee will:

1. Utilize the information gathered from the Transition Team's mission study to create a church profile that describes who we are, where we want to be, and what sort of pastoral leadership we are seeking.
2. Meet with Rev. Marsha Williams, our Associate Conference Minister, and in consultation with her...
3. ...Receive and read the ministerial profiles of pastoral candidates.
4. Interview promising-looking candidates.
5. Keep those profiles completely confidential until a candidate or candidates are chosen to present to the congregation for the final decision.

The Search Committee will consist of seven to nine people who represent the demographics of our congregation. You must be willing and able to meet regularly and work for consensus. This is vitally important work, and although the task may seem daunting, the rewards are great.

If you would like to volunteer yourself or recommend someone else (church members only) to serve on the Search Committee, please complete and return the following form to the church office, Barbara Wright, moderator, or Kathleen Waters, interim pastor by **February 15**. Thank you.

Barbara Wright, Moderator (revbarbwright@gmail.com or 607-423-0400)

Homer Congregational Church Search Committee Nominations Please consider the following person(s) to serve on the Search Committee

Name: _____

Contact Information including email address

Name: _____

Contact Information including email address

Name: _____

Contact Information including email address

Worship Service
Participants

Ushers and Greeters

Worship Leader
Joanne Cincotta

Acolytes
Kyle Wright,
Jack Bertram

Flowers
The Haaland family
*in honor of Christine's birthday
and in memory of
Mary L. Haaland*

Nursery Volunteers
Susan Benedict,
Grace Wright

Coffee Hour
Leslie and Eugene Wright

Attendance
February 7 - 60
February 10 - 22

Life in the Parish
Week of February 14

TODAY – February 14
10:30 am – Worship service

MONDAY – February 15
Presidents' Day - office closed
7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets in
Russell Fellowship Room

TUESDAY – February 16
2:00 pm – Bridge Group meets
6:30 pm – Trustees meet
7:00 pm – Homer Brass
rehearsal

WEDNESDAY – February 17
1:30 pm – Russell Fellowship
Room in use
6:00 pm – Lenten worship with
Communion
7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY – February 18
12:00 pm – Bible Study Group

SUNDAY – February 21
No Sunday School classes
9:15 am – The Well
10:30 am – Worship service
12:00 pm-3:00 pm – Stephen
Ministry meets

NOTES AND NOTICES

For hundreds of years, Christians have set aside Lent as a special time for prayer, reflection and a deepening of their spiritual life. Join us during this Lenten Season for a brief gathering in the sanctuary each **Wednesday evening from 6:00 – 6:30 pm** (February 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16) for quiet reflection, simple music and Holy Communion. Together we can deepen our community, renew our faith and strengthen our hope. All are welcome.

The adult discussion group, **The Well**, met this Sunday and will continue to meet Sundays at 9:15 am.

The **Bible Study Group** will begin meeting again, starting **Thursday** at **noon** for lunch, discussion at 12:30 pm. All are welcome.

Church Directory Update Coming: We are updating our Church Contact Directory for 2016. If you have new contact information, please let the office know. If you would like to list your email address and/or cell phone number, also please contact the office.

The “findings” of the **Transition Team** are available in a report that can be found in Russell Fellowship Room and at each entrance to the sanctuary. The next phase will involve the entire congregation as we take the Team’s recommendations and develop plans for implementation and preparation for a settled pastor.

The Cortland County Council of Churches is one of the organizations supported by us. On **February 21**, Rev. Vicki Johnson will offer a **Mission Moment** about the Council's ministry. She will also be available during coffee hour to answer questions. This should be a great opportunity to hear about the "return" we receive for our financial investment in the Council of Churches. This will be the first of several "mission moments" to help us understand that, through our support, we are very much in ministry beyond our own walls.