

Welcome to Church of Christ
March 23, 2025 ~ Third Sunday in Lent
We are honored to worship God with you today!

Prelude *Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee, O Lord* (Ps. 130) - M. Luther, arr. A. Fedak

Call to Worship (from Psalm 63) ~Ruth Adotte

Leader: You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

People: **I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.**

Leader: Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.

People: **I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.**

Leader: I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

People: **Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.**

All: **I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.**

Hymn 358 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (Worship and Rejoice)

Vs 1 Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Vs 2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Vs 3 Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Vs 4 Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (trespasses/debts)

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 trespasses (debts),

as we forgive those who trespass against us (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

Anthem *A Grateful Heart* - M. McDonald

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

~Ruth Adotte

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

Sermon "Worthy"

Hymn 371 *Our Father, We Have Wandered*

(Worship and Rejoice)

Vs 1 Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face; in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace. But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame, as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.

Vs 2 And now at length discerning the evil that we do, behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you. In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring, in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

Vs 3 O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored, compassionate, forgiving and ever-caring Lord, grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease. Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

Light of Service *Torrington Community Soup Kitchen* ~Grant Mudge

We have a chance to offer financial gifts in support of Spirit-led work. Undesignated gifts go to the recipient named above. Please use the white envelopes in the pews to designate giving otherwise. There is no obligation, and we always welcome prayers for our LOS recipients. Thank you!

Offertory *Lord, Make Me to Know - W. Byrd*

Doxology (two versions are offered) Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen. OR: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing Joys and Church Life Updates

Sharing Prayer Concerns

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn 469 *Lord of All Hopefulness* *(Worship and Rejoice)*

Vs 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike no cares could destroy, be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Vs 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Vs 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace, be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Vs 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm, be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Our Common Commission

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* - J. Pachelbel

Please remain seated to listen or depart quietly.

Please join us on Sunday, April 13th, at 3:00 p.m for *Lenten Lessons and Anthems*. This is a special service of music, readings and prayers and hymns as we contemplate the events of Holy Week. Choir members and clergy from area UCC churches will lead this service. A time of fellowship will follow. If you can provide either a plate of cookies or a savory snack, please contact Ginny Eckert or Tina Chausse.

We gladly list these prayer concerns and ask you to keep us apprised of any updates so that we have the most current information. If you would like a pastoral visit please call or email Pastor Erick (860-303-0910, reverendole@gmail.com).

Members needing our prayers: Patty Cammilletti; Steven, Tina & Aaliyah Chausse; Peter Coffeen; Linda Creedon; Bonnie Greenwood; Holly Kelsey; Will Kelsey; Arlene Patten; Dan Patten; Cindy Sinclair; John Thew

Ongoing concerns for our relatives and friends: Annattie P.; Eric; Jo; Kelly; Donna Aakjar (Nancy Perry's sister); Andrew Anderson (Ruth Adotte); Jay Atkinson; Andrea Blacklow (Kristin Mudge's friend); Marcia Brenizer (Jen Pfaltz's mother); Denis Combes (Jason Combes' father); Nancy Foster; John Funchion; Fran and Arnold Gellman (Tina Olsen's aunt and uncle); Judy Green; Dennis Carr Hannifin (Sally Carr's son); Olivia Howard (Ky Byrne's cousin); Jim Korner (Liz Wilbur's brother); Bethany Lee; Lynne Martin (Ruth Adotte); Rick Martin (Ruth Adotte); Jackie Nocotera; Bill Patrick (Lyn's husband) and family; Rev. Kenric and Debby Prescott; Constance Rotondo (Jane Williams); Desi Smith (Bonnie Greenwood); Ryan Sterba; Rob Thew; Sue Ellen Thomas (Pastor Erick's sister); Dennis Watlington (Tim Hitchcock); Judi Welch

Those who are grieving the families of: Donna Aakjar; Robert Battis; Bonnie Ferrell; Stephen Getz; George Green; Jackie Hamad; Pat Harms; Serena Livingston; John Marinelli; Don Martin; Will Martin; Will Minton; Avery Nelson; Sue Pratt; Mary Sager

In the wider community: Leigh Cappabianca (missionary in Turkey); Laura Smith (missionary in Venezuela); The people of Haiti, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine - and all enduring ongoing violence; the people of Syria, particularly the Christian community.