

MARCH 21st, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT/STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: In these challenging times, we can't help but be concerned about our church and the Christian Church in general.

People: Faith communities like ours are laboring to remain vibrant, but we don't know what is in store for the First Congregational Church of Scarborough in the months and years ahead.

Pastor: But the same God who declared "Behold, I make all things new" can renew what is worn and heal what is broken.

People: And the same God who raised Christ from the dead can raise us so we can continue proclaiming the Gospel to a world that hungers to hear good news.

Pastor: We believe God will make our congregation new and give us the life and strength to be ready for an uncertain future. Let us worship the Lord.

HYMN #63 *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Almighty God, we believe all things are possible with you, and no matter how bad things are you can help us carry on in the world. When our lives are broken, you bring healing. When we walk through shadowy valleys, you shine your light on us. When we are in turmoil, you give us peace. When death touches us and our grief is overwhelming, you offer comfort. And when our church struggles through a pandemic that has closed our sanctuary and isolated us from one another for the past year, you will make us new so we can continue to be the Body of Christ. As we pledge our support on this Stewardship Sunday, dear Lord, bless us with your presence and deepen our faith. Be our guide and protector so we can enter the future with confidence. And remind us that, whatever tomorrow brings, your love will surround us, today and always. We ask these things in the name of Jesus our Savior, who taught us to pray like this, saying...

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (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, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 30 and Revelation 21:1-6

SERMON MESSAGE: *All Things New* Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Gracious God, we want the First Congregational Church of Scarborough to be made new. Our congregation has people who have strong, longtime, connections with this faith community, care deeply about it, and have a lot of experience, wisdom and resources to share. So, even though we aren't the same church we were in days past, and we won't be the same church in the days ahead that we now are, we will move ahead into the future with confidence that, with your renewal, we can accomplish the work you call us do and proclaim the Good News you want us to share. Bless our offerings and our Stewardship pledges to that end, dear Lord, we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

HYMN #95 *Be Still, My Soul*

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: It's exciting to know that the God who makes all things new is going to make our church new, as well. Our pledges of support will help our renewal.

People: What tomorrow holds for the First Congregational Church of Scarborough, only God knows. The one thing we do know is that there are changes ahead for us.

Pastor: But we will move forward in faith, trusting that the Lord will renew us for whatever ministry is given to us.

People: We give thanks that our church has been led and guided by God for our entire 293 year history, and that our future is in God's loving, capable hands.

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL