

**First Church of Lombard  
United Church of Christ  
*Virtual Worship*  
February 28, 2021 – Second Sunday in Lent**



**PRELUDE**

*Let Us Break Bread Together*  
Lawrence Underwood - oboe

Arr. Cathy Stagmena

**TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY**

**GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER**

**GATHERING SONG**

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus  
Beneath the cross of Jesus, I gladly take my stand,  
The shadows of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.*

**OPENING PRAYER**

God, we give you our hearts. They are brimming with doubt and are saturated with fear, but we give them to you anyway, for you promise to love us as we are. You promise to walk with us to the ends of the earth, so in this moment, we promise to tell the truth. God, you ask us to be brave and bold, but we cower in fear. You ask us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we hold tight to privilege and the status quo. And you ask us to risk it all to follow you, but we are content with the injustices at hand. Forgive us for our sin and lift our eyes to you. Gratefully we pray, amen.

**VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL - Song**

## **THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

through scripture

Mark 8:31-38

*Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."*

*He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

through a sermon

Name Your Wilderness

through a poem

The Wilderness is a Place where we are Brave

Sarah Are

through an anthem

*Behold the Heavens*  
Josiah Reade Ringers Ensemble

Kathleen Wissinger

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for  
Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

## SENT FORTH TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GRACE

### PARTING SONG

*When Peace, Like a River  
When peace, like a river, upholds me each day,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll,  
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say, "It is well with my soul."  
It is well with my soul,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

Joy in that Land  
Lawrence Underwood - oboe

Arr. Jerry Nelson



# NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Published Weekly

February 28, 2021

220 South Main Street

Lombard, Illinois 60148

No.1089

## **MARCH MADNESS**

Even though things have changed, some things remain, and March Madness is one of them. While we won't be able to bring the \$20 participation fee to church, we are asking for donations through REALM or on the [www.FCOL.org](http://www.FCOL.org) website (Use the MISCELLANEOUS drop down button and write "March Madness" in the memo line). You may also mail a check to the church by March 14<sup>th</sup> and include your email address so that Patty Bruzek can mail the choices to each donor. The goal is to provide \$1,000 to the Elmhurst University Scholarship Fund, something that has served some of our own students in the past. All donations up to \$500 will be matched by a generous anonymous donor,

And yes, there will be prizes: First place \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. And all donors are winners because they've helped an Elmhurst student with their education.

## **VACCINE ASSISTANCE**

The DuPage County Health Department is dedicated to assisting seniors and those who are eligible for a vaccine but who may not have computer or internet access. Anyone eligible for a vaccine who needs assistance registering should call 630-682-7400, and the staff will help them register for a vaccine.

## **RACISM DISCUSSION**

For our final week of First Church's "I'm Not a Racist" series, we will ask ourselves, "What Now? How do we develop an action plan, both individually and church-wide?" This session will begin at 7 PM. this Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, via Zoom. Please contact [vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org) to receive the link. Please know that anyone can join in even if they haven't been with us in previous weeks!

## **IN TOUCH WITH OUTREACH**

This is still February, and this is still "Have a Heart and Help" month for doing some good for those who are experiencing homelessness and are involved in the P.A.D.S. program. Our Wider Church Team is encouraging everyone to participate by donating at [www.FCOL.org](http://www.FCOL.org) choosing DONATE at the top right of the screen, selecting MISCELLANEOUS under "fund" and entering P.A.D.S. in the memo line. The money will be used to purchase gift cards of \$10, \$20, and \$30 to be used at Walmart, Jewel, Aldi, and Walgreens. These will be distributed by the P.A.D.S. directors to help those in these especially stressful times. We *can* make a difference, and this is just another way that our outreach programs serve our community.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Last Sunday's Congregational Meeting was unique in its Zoom-ness, and attending members voted to approve the Council's proposal to give staff a 2% raise, dating back to January 1<sup>st</sup>, plus an immediate 1% bonus. Because our financial support has been strong, this action didn't go above our budget.

## **UPCOMING**

We regularly refer to our serving teams, but how much do we all know about each of them and what they do? We will be running articles in the upcoming newsletters about each of the teams, their way of serving, and other salient information that should reveal what our teams do to make us more effective in different ways.

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

While we don't get to see each other at our worship services, we do get to see Pastor Jill in the pulpit and Janette Rodriguez and other talented musicians as they fill the worship time. The service is archived, so it's possible to see it at any time after 10:15 AM on Sunday by going to [www.FCOL.org](http://www.FCOL.org).

## **VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR**

Whether coffee is actually involved or not, getting together at 11:15 AM for virtual Coffee Hour allows us a chance to see each other and share some fellowship as well as catching up on current happenings in our lives. Check for the Zoom link on Friday's emails and come to be a part of the 20-25 gathering that includes members on both coasts, something possible only through zoom.