

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BUCKLAND

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Phone: 625-9440 Pastor's Phone: (413) 634-5451

Rev. Richard T. Fournier, Pastor

Sandy Carter - Organist / Pianist

**March 21, 2021**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

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*"Lent is the autumn of the Spiritual Life during which we gather fruit to keep us going for the rest of the year."*

*by St. Francis De Sales*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**INTROIT** "What Wondrous Love Is This" - American Folk Hymn

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: We are gathered in the presence of God, who asks us to choose between life and death, blessing and curse.

**People: We are gathered like the people of Israel, who were challenged to choose the way of life.**

Pastor: Like them, we often stray from the path of life.

**People: Yet, like them, we have the freedom each day to begin anew by the grace of God.**

Pastor: By our presence here, we are saying that we want to choose life once again, and share that life with others.

**People: Let us praise the God of love and life who has called us to this place where we may flourish together in Christ's Spirit.**

**\*HYMN** "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" No. 140

### \*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Dear God, Please find for us the things we have lost. Find for us hearts of hope and trust. Find a love that runs silent and strong through dark days, as well as bright. Find a ribbon of truth to tie around each fragment of our lives. Find a joy and a peace that we give to every hurting one. And please dear God, find for us a faith that's big enough, and mellow enough, to admit our wrongs, and to

trust that you will still find us and welcome us home. O God who lifts little lambs close to your heart, who gives our hearts the desire to return to you, we ask your mercy and forgiveness for all the treasures we've misplaced. We give you thanks and praise for the beauty of finding them and treasuring them again and sharing them with joy. Amen

**\*GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father" No. 575

**FIRST SCRIPTURE** Genesis 28: 10-22 page 22

**CHOIR ANTHEM** "Ave Verum Corpus (Lord Most Holy)" - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

**PRAYER RESPONSE** "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" No. 585

**OFFERTORY** (We request that you leave your contributions in the basket on your way out or mail them to Vi Scott.)

**CHOIR ANTHEM** "Now the Green Blade Riseth" - French Medieval Carol

**SCRIPTURE READING** Genesis 32: 22-32 page 26

**MESSAGE** "The Struggles and Growth of Jacob and Ourselves" - Rich Fournier

**\*HYMN** "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" No. 391

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

\*=All who are able, are invited to stand.

### Announcements

**Palm Sunday:** Next Sunday, **March 28th**, we will be celebrating Palm Sunday at our regular **10:30** Worship Service, both in person at the church and on ZOOM. If anyone has any palm tree plants that you are willing to bring to help decorate the church, please call Anita Upright at 413-625-6481.

**Maundy Thursday:** **Thursday evening, April 1st**, we will have a Service of Tenebrae at **7:00 P.M.** upstairs in the Sanctuary of the church, so folks can attend in person or on ZOOM. There will be readings, music, extinguishing of candles, and observance of the Last Supper. Have your bread and grape juice ready, and those of you at home may want to light a candle to extinguish.

**Easter Sunday:** **April 4th** (No Sunrise Service this year) Regular **10:30** Worship Service, both in person at the church and on ZOOM.

**Flowers for Easter:** We would love to have your plants and flowers to decorate the church for Easter. You will have to take responsibility for purchasing your own plants, getting them to the church between 1:00 and 3:00 Saturday afternoon, April 3rd, and picking them up after the Worship Service on Sunday, April 4th. Please be sure your plant(s) are labeled with your name. If your plant is in memory of a loved one whose name you'd like included in the Easter Sunday Worship bulletin, please be sure to contact Anita Upright with the details no later than Thursday, April 1st. 413-625-6481 or CandAupright@hotmail.com



# Mary Lyon Church

First Congregational Church of Buckland

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