

Third Sunday of

LENT



Sunday, March 7, 2021
10 o'clock in the morning

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, and CONCERNS

Additional announcements can be found in the Weekly Word e-mail sent out on Friday mornings.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Passing of the Peace is the oldest part of the Christian liturgy and is a special way we welcome each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. You are invited to participate in this ritual by adding in the comment section.

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

God is Here

[Hymnal No. 660. WORDS: Fred Pratt Green; MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor]

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our life-long need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

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COTUIT FEDERATED CHURCH

40 School Street • Post Office Box 436 • Cotuit, MA 02635

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer in Song

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light*

Gathering of the Prayers

Prayer in Song

OFFERTORY

***Doxology:**

*Praise God from whom all blessing flow,
Praise God all creature here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

[Hymnal No. 545]

*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her
Lord; she is his new creation by water and the
Word. From heaven he came and sought her to
be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought
her, and for her life he died.*

*Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one
birth; one holy name she blesses, partakes one
holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every
grace endued.*

*Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore
oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies
distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up, "How long?" And soon the
night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*

*Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace
forevermore; till, with the vision glorious, her
longing eyes are blest, and the great church
victorious shall be the church at rest.*

*Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three
in One, and mystic sweet communion with those
whose rest is won. O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we like them, the meek
and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.*

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GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 15:1-32

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my

continued

share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

"'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 3:1-17

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings?

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

MEDITATION

*A Conversation Between CFC Pastors
Past & Present
Rev. Angela Menke-Ballou
and Rev. Nicole Lamarche*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Closer to Fine

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***Hymn of Preparation**

The Lord's Prayer

[TFWS#2278; Music: Anon, arr. Al Oppenheimer]

*Our Father in heaven, holy is your name.
Holy is your name. Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our
sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us
from evil. For the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory are yours, forever, forever,
and ever.*

*** Invitation**

*** Prayer of Consecration**

*** Words of Institution**

*** Sharing of the Bread and the Cup**

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving**

CLOSING HYMN

All You Need is Love

[The Beatles]

Love, love, love

Love, love, love

Love, love, love

*There's nothing you can do that can't be done
Nothing you can sing that can't be sung
Nothing you can say
but you can learn to play the game
It's easy*

All you need is love

All you need is love

All you need is love, love

Love is all you need

Love, love, love

Love, love, love

Love, love, love

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BENEDICTION

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