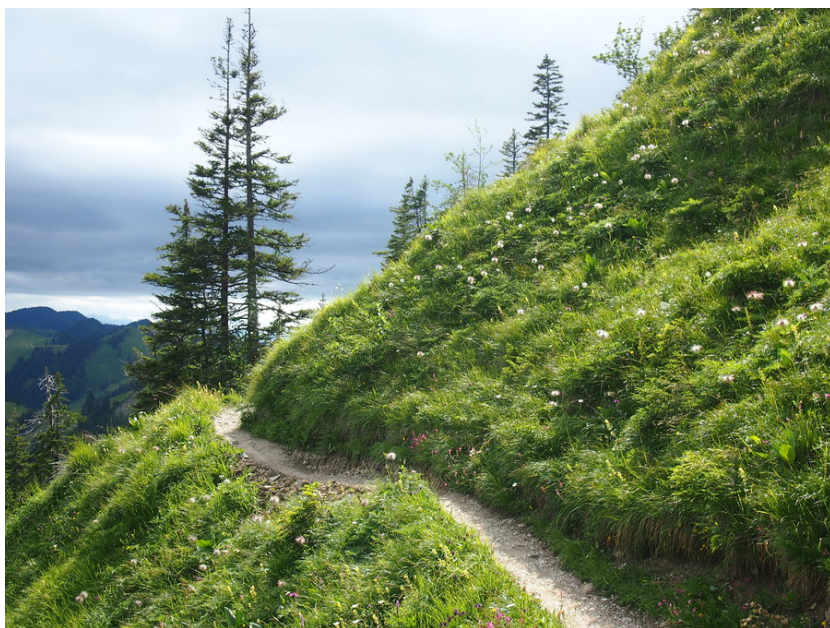


**The Church of the Pilgrimage
United Church of Christ**

Sunday, February 18, 2018

10:00am

First Sunday of Lent



Catskill Mountain Path

Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo, PASTOR
Gina Basler, WORSHIP LEADER
Kelley DePasqua, MUSIC DIRECTOR
Michael Eaton, ORGANIST
Jenny Healy, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ED

Order of Worship

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Prelude

Prelude on 'O Gentle Presence'
-E.W. Jenkins

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit

Call to Worship *(responsively)*

Turn away from the calls of worldly success

Repent, and turn back to God.

Turn away from the desire to have what everyone else has

Repent, and turn back to God.

Turn away from greed and the race for power

Repent, and turn back to God.

As we enter Lent, may we turn back to God

May we seek forgiveness,

may we seek healing,

may we seek wholeness.

May our hearts be renewed in this time of worship.

*Hymn No. 249

Open Now Your Gates of Beauty

Prayer of the Day (unison)

God, we come on this first Sunday in Lent

with hesitant steps and uncertain motives

to sweep out the corners

where sin has accumulated,

and uncover the ways

we have strayed from Your truth.

Expose the empty and barren places

where we don't allow you to enter.

Reveal our half-hearted struggles

where we have been indifferent

to the suffering of others.

Nurture the faint stirrings of new life,

where your spirit has begun to grow.

Let your healing light transform us
into the image of Your Son.

For You alone can bring new life
and make us whole.

***The Lord's Prayer** (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, forever. Amen

***Gloria Patri** No. 36 (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. Amen.

The Children's Message

Jenny Healy

-----*Children depart for Sunday School*-----

Anthem

The Eyes of All by Jean Berger
Psalm 145: 15, 16

The eyes of all wait upon thee;
and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response

Scripture Lesson Psalm 25, select verses

Sermon Right Paths Pastor Helen Nablo

***Hymn** God, We Have Heard It

This hymn-prayer was originally written by Caroline Gillette on the day of the Columbine High School massacre almost 20 years ago. Sadly, it has been sung many times since then and was most recently shared by the Catholic Diocese in Kentucky after a school shooting there. Permission is given for free use of this hymn in local churches.

God, We Have Heard It

1. God, we have heard it, sound - ing in the si - lence:
2. Je - sus, you came to bear our hu - man sor - row;
3. Heal us from giv - ing weap - ons an - y glo - ry;
4. By your own Spit - it, give your church a clear voice;

News of the chil - dren lost to this world's vio - lence. Chil - dren of
You came to give us hope for each to - mor - row. You are our
Help us, O Prince of Peace, to hear your sto - ry; Help us re -
In this world's vio - lence, help us make a new choice. Help us to

prom - ise! Then with - out a warn - ing, Loved ones are mourn - ing,
life, Lord God's own love re - veal - ing. We need your heal - ing!
sist the e - vil all a - round here; May love a - bound here!
wit - ness to the joy your peace brings, Un - til your world sings!

WORDS: Copyright © 1999 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1640

HERZLIEBSTER JESU
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Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Dear Lord Who Loves All Humankind
By C.H.H. Parry

Dear Lord and who loves all humankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,

let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

***Doxology No. 44**

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**

God of our Lenten journey,
We give these offerings in gratitude,
rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.
We give these offerings in faith,
trusting that you will provide for our needs.
We give these offerings in hope,
knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.
And with these offerings, we give ourselves;
May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

***Hymn No. 485** Bless Now, O God, the Journey

Benediction and Choral Response

Postlude In Green Pastures
 -Harold Darke 1888-1976

*During the postlude you may remain seated,
or rise to greet the pastor and proceed to coffee hour.*

Our Deacon In-Charge is Elizabeth Hughes Campbell.

The flowers are in loving memory of my granddaughter, Tracey Nickerson Brown. Given by her grandmother, Billie Courtney.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, Feb 19: The Church Office is closed for Presidents' Day.
Monday Meals, 11am, Allerton Hall.

Tuesday, Feb 20: Herald Deadline

Wednesday, Feb 21: Bible Study at Amy Simpson's home, 10:30 am.

Saturday, February 24: Celebration of Life for Gordon Campbell, 10 am with collation to follow.

Sunday, February 25: Worship 10 am Second Sunday of Lent with Pastor Helen preaching. Flower committee meeting in the Marks Conference room after worship.

NOTES

Welcome to worship at The Church of the Pilgrimage. Please join us after services today for coffee hour downstairs in Allerton Hall. And if you are a visitor, please sign your name on the friendship pad and we will send you a copy of the church newsletter.

Please silence your cell phones so we can be fully present to the spirit and to one another.

This morning we have nursery/cribroom care with Kristin Moses, our childcare worker. Kristen is with us every Sunday.

Hearing devices and copies of the morning sermon are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Adults interested in taking part in this summer's mission trip will meet today in the JRC (starting about 15 minutes after worship concludes, grab a cup of coffee and make your way over)

Save the date – February 28th– First Lenten Wednesday night Soup Supper and Program on Addiction, with speakers Katy Morini & Dan Kelly from the Plymouth Recovery Center. Soup supper begins at 5:45;

program runs from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Katy has written a book *The Story of Red Tailed Hawk: One Family's Struggle with Addiction* available in book form and on Kindle through Amazon.

Our second Wednesday night Soup Supper and Program will be March 7th on Forgiveness, featuring a presentation by Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter. **Our third evening, March 14th** will be on Dementia, led by Rev. Dr. Rosemary MacKay. Please plan to join us, and feel free to invite a friend who might find one or all of these topics helpful.

The Sunday School is accepting donations of fleece for blanket making throughout the month of February. See Jenny for details! Or email her at jennycotp@gmail.com

Registration forms for the Women's Retreat (April 13-14) are available on the marble table in the upper vestibule. Speak with Dawn Durmis (508-725-3283) or Susan Cotta (508-746-9186) if you have any questions.

Copies of the UCC Lenten Devotional Booklet "Lovers and Fools" are available on the marble table in the upper vestibule. If you can, make a \$3 donation to offset costs. That will be appreciated. And please, one per household.

SAVE THE DATE-

The Installation Service and Reception for Rev. Al Hoyt will be on Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 3:00 pm at the First Congregational Church located at 10 Union Street in Milford, NH 03055. There will be a reception of light refreshments following the Installation Service at the Parish House that is located directly next door to the church. All are welcome!

Dinner and Auction featuring Time, Talent and Treasures, March 16, 2018. Dinner, Silent and Live Auction, Door Prizes and Raffles from 5:30 until 8:30pm. Tickets on sale now. See Debby Porter, Cathy Sampson or Kim Engle for dinner reservations and auction donations. Bring the whole family, neighbors and friends. For more information go to the Church website at <http://www.8townsquare.org>.



As an Open and Affirming Congregation we invite all into our faith, to fully share in all church life, including our work, worship, rites, and sacraments, with the assurance that we are all created in God's image, reconciled by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

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BRIAN Gildea, Sexton