

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

Sunday, February 25, 2018

10:00am

Second Sunday of Lent



**Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo, PASTOR**  
**Jessie Hanlon, 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!*

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**Prelude**

Voluntary

-John Stanley 1712-1786

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Choral Introit**

**Call to Worship** (*responsively*)

We come to worship this morning from different places.

**O God, do not be far from us.**

We come to worship this morning for different reasons.

**O God, do not be far from us.**

We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.

**O God, do not be far from us.**

We hear Jesus' words with different ears.

**O God, do not be far from us.**

"Deny yourselves."

**O God, do not be far from us.**

"Take up your cross."

**O God, do not be far from us.**

"Follow me."

**O God,**

**we thank you for drawing near to us**

**in this place,**

**in our lives.**

**Amen.**

\***Hymn** No. 445

Be Thou My Vision

\***Prayer of the Day (unison)**

God of love, God of power,  
we have failed to serve you faithfully.

Our lives are anything but blameless.

You invite us to see with a new vision,

but we continue in our old ways.

You call us to set aside our own desires

so that we may embrace *your* desires,  
but we are stubborn and refuse to let go.  
Lord, correct us.

Guide us to find our place, walking with Jesus  
in front of us.

Teach us to take up our crosses  
and follow wherever you lead.

We pray as Jesus taught us, saying...

**\*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.

**Moment of Gratitude**

Tony Cotta

**The Children's Message**

Jenny Healy

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

**Solo**

Blessed Redeemer by Casting Crowns  
Songwriters: John Mark Hall / Bernie Herms  
Michaela Coombs, Soloist

Up Calvary's mountain one dreadful morn  
Walked Christ my Savior, weary and worn  
Facing for sinners death on the cross  
That He might save them from endless loss  
Blessed Redeemer, precious Redeemer  
Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree  
Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading  
Blind and unheeding, dying for me

'Father, forgive them, ' my Savior prayed  
Even while His lifeblood flowed fast away  
Praying for sinners while in such woe  
No one but Jesus ever loved so  
Dying for me  
Oh how I love Him, Savior and friend  
How can my praises ever find end  
Through years unnumbered on Heaven's shore  
My songs shall praise Him forevermore

## **Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns**

### **Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response**

**Scripture Lesson**                      Mark 8:31-38                      NT40 or 819

**Sermon**                      *Edgy Truths*                      Pastor Helen Nablo

**\*Hymn No. 450**                      May the Mind of Christ My Savior

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem**                      He's the Lily of the Valley

He's the Lily of the valley, Oh, my Lord.  
I've never been to heaven but I've been told, O my Lord,  
That the streets up there are paved with gold, O my Lord.

What kind of shoes are those You wear? O, my Lord,  
That You can walk up in the air, O my Lord.

These shoes I wear are gospel shoes, O my Lord,  
And You can wear these if You choose, O my Lord.  
He's the Lily of the valley, oh, my Lord.

### **\*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. 477                      God of Grace, and God of Glory

### **Benediction and Choral Response**

**Postlude**                              Fugue in D Major  
    -Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

*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.  
**Our Ushers** are Suzanne & Sherm Anderson and Linda & Frank Montague.  
**The flowers** are in loving memory of Harold and Dorothy Strassel, Roy and Doretta Seese and Harold Tissot. Given by the family.

### **FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

Monday, Feb 26: Monday Meals, 11 am, Allerton Hall.

Tuesday, Feb 27: Board of Deacons, 7 pm Marks Room, JRC.

Wednesday, Feb 28: Bible Study at Amy Simpson's home, 10:30 am.  
5:45-6:30 Soup Supper followed by Program on Addiction, 6:30-7:30.  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary.

Sunday, March 4: Worship 10 am Third Sunday of Lent with Pastor Helen preaching. Dedication of Blankets for the Linus Project.  
Meeting after worship for the summer mission trip – students and parents. Easter Pageant sign-ups begin.

## 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.

**This Wednesday night – February 28<sup>th</sup>– 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 7<sup>th</sup> on Forgiveness, featuring a presentation by Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter. **Our third evening, March 14<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**Next Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>:** An informational meeting for the summer youth mission trip (August 11-14<sup>th</sup>) will be held after church. Students and parents are invited to come and hear more, ask questions, etc. In the Marks Conference room of the JRC.

**Newcomers Gathering:** Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> after worship in the John Robinson Center. A time to meet others who are newer to the church, ask questions, and receive more information about the church and our ministries. If you have recently begun attending, or have been attending for quite a while, please save the date and plan to join us. A second meeting going into greater depth is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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>.

**Fellowship Dinners, Saturday, April 28.** A fellowship dinner gives us the opportunity to share a meal and connect with one another in a smaller setting. It is a great way for new members and more seasoned members to get to know each other better. A host offers his/her home for the evening, determines the number of people they can accommodate, and provides liquid refreshments. The attendees provide an item for the potluck supper. These dinners are a great deal of fun and enhance the overall experience of church membership. The first round of fellowship dinners is scheduled for Saturday, April 28. The more hosts we have, the more parties there will be. If you are interested in being a host or attending, please call or email Shellie ([office@townsquare.org](mailto:office@townsquare.org)) or you can sign up at coffee hour on Sunday with Sandy Bartlett or Bonnie Koehler.



*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