

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MONTAGUE,  
TRINITARIAN, MONTAGUE, MA**

**Mar 19, 2023                      Fourth Sunday in Lent**

*Bold italics indicate the work of the people.*

*\*Indicates places to stand if able to.*

The hymnal for today is the Red Hymnal

PRELUDE & PROCESSIONAL  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*God summons us to awaken and see.*

*Light has come to lead us to all that is good.*

***Our eyes have been opened to God's goodness***

***We seek to live as children of light.***

*God sees beyond our outward appearance.*

*God knows the intent of our hearts*

***We are here to find out what is pleasing to God.***

***We want to know what is right and true.***

*God listens to all who worship with sincerity.*

*Praise God with openness and obedience.*

***We seek to know and follow God's will.***

***This is a day for doing God's work.***

**UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*Holy God, Like a shepherd you watch over us and provide abundantly for our needs. Let your light shine on us now, revealing truths we have not seen and possibilities we may have recognized. Through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen*

**\*HYMN #39**    "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*O God, We confess that we are more prone to speak for you than to listen. We put forward our own visions and beliefs as though they were obviously yours. And because we believe that we see, we fail to recognize you at your coming. Forgive us and free us from the all that blinds us, so that we too may dwell in your grace.*

**\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

*In Christ you are forgiven  
Thanks be to God!*

**CHORAL MUSIC**

**RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 23** (Red Hymnal #69, p.518)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Hebrew Scriptures**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

**Holy Gospel**

**John 9:1-41**

**SERMON**

"The Expectation Buster"

**HYMN #391**

"Be Thou My Vision"

**PRAYERS**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures hear below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*  
*(sung to the tune of Old 100<sup>th</sup>)*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*With gratitude for all that you provide, dear God, and to the service of the world you love so much, we dedicate these gifts and our lives to you, in Jesus name. Amen*

**\*HYMN #404**      “Take My Life and Let it Be”

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Response** (To the tune of Edelweiss)

*May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever, grant you peace, perfect peace, strength in every endeavor; lift up your eyes and then see his face, and his grace forever; May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.*

**POSTLUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Deacon for March is Janet Andrews.
- Join us downstairs for refreshments and fellowship after the service.
- A Diaconate Meeting on Wed. Council next Sunday
- An e-mail will be sent out for this Wednesday evening's Lenten Series.
- Rev. Koyama will be away from tomorrow until Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**PRAYER GARDEN**