# FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship for the Lord's Day February 28, 2021

PRELUDES Peace (Horace Silver) Jon Hazilla, Ingrid Gerdes & Burns

Liz Stanfield & Willie Archibald (in NH)

Reflection Jo

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

• This Week: Lenten Prayer Service Every Night at 6pm (Zoom)

- Meals every day, Monday thru Friday, 11am-1pm VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
- Weekly Prayer Groups sponsored by the deacons (links on website; each is 30 minutes long): Mondays at 8am with Brent

Thursdays at 8pm with Jacob B and Laura M

Fridays at 8:30am with Michelle

- MONDAY Lenten opportunity: 4:30-5:30 with Deb "Dwelling in the Word" (like lectio divina)
- TUESDAY Lenten Book Club: 6:40-7:30 with Burns reading <u>Caste</u> by Isabel Wilkerson (for this week read Part 3)
- WEDNESDAY Lenten discussion: 6:40-7:30 with Ken, Mark, Burns & others: 12 Steps & Christianity, using as our resource "The Big Book." (For this week on Step 1, read Ch.1,2,3)
- Mindful of day-to-day changes in COVID numbers, Session has voted to continue with NO IN-PERSON participation in Sunday worship through March 7.. (They are meeting on March 9)
- <u>LENTEN DEVOTION BOOK</u> (with photos by Stephanie Martin Glennon) Available NOW on our website in a beautiful PDF (thank you, Laura!).
   Limited number of hard copies available at church. Please tell us ASAP if you want one.
- <u>LENT in 2021:</u> "Consider the Habits That Shape Our Lives"
   <u>NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FOR ADULTS:</u> "The Science of Habit"
   This starts next Sunday, March 7, 9:30am, led by Becca Tweedie

### **GBIO** Update

After a period of outreach, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization "Refounds" and Re-engages this Spring.

Special Events for Fourth Church, a founding member of GBIO:

**Tuesday, March 16** - (On Zoom) A major assembly to present to the public a rejuvenated GBIO with 15 new member organizations

We want to be Fourth Church Strong with at least 20 leaders present REGISTER thru link in the CHAT (or tell Laura, Burns or Becca)

**March- May:** A campaign of house meetings to identify are major concerns (A zoom campaign. Tell Laura Blanton or Burns if you want to help organize) We can ultimately present our key issues to mayoral candidates

Please write announcements & prayer requests in the Zoom Chat Section.

DO YOU WANT A CALL? Tell Deb Duval or Katie Cole in the chat and we will call you today.

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Brothers and sisters, How lovely is God's dwelling place! People: At God's altars, even the sparrow finds a home for herself

L: The Spirit invites us in these 40 days of wilderness to examine our lives

- P: <u>Consider the habits that shape us.</u>
- L: We bring to this moment our best instincts and we bring those we pray might change
- P: With Jesus we step into the wilderness, walking a Holy Way
- L: Take, o take us as we are, Holy God
- P: <u>Summon out what we will be.</u>

Testimony on "Consider the Habits That Shape Us (Christine Keller) PRAYER (Katie Cole)

\* HYMN The Old Rugged Cross (sanctuary)

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross

The emblem of suffering and shame

And I love that old cross where the dearest and best

For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross)

Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear Lamb of God left his glory above To bear it to dark Calvary So I'll cherish....

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true It's shame and reproach gladly bear Then he'll call me some day to my home far away Where his glory forever I'll share

# LITURGY OF CONFESSION

(Laura Massie in the sanctuary)

<u>Unison Prayer.</u> Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives:

The fear that stifles us, the prejudice that blinds us,

the ignorance that hobbles us, the doubt that plagues us.

Help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely places,

see the world with new and gracious eyes, move to those places where love is needed,

have faith that you are with us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

<u>Time for Silent Confession</u> <u>Sung Response</u>: (#698)

Take O take me as I am. Summon out what I may be.

Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

### \*LITURGY OF PARDON

Leader: Seekers of the Holy, God's love calls to us
People: In Christ, God places in us a divine compass
L: The Spirit that always points us toward God
P: Let us turn toward God, who calls us home!

L: And let us say together:

ALL: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

SING: 1. I've got a feeling everything's gonna be alright.....

2. The Holy Ghost done told me....

TIME FOR CHILDREN - (Katie Cole)

# CELEBRATIONS, CONCERNS & PRAYER

PRAYER REQUESTS – Shared in 5-minute small groups

From Those Gathered on Zoom Chat Line

Deb will share prayer requests written in the "Zoom Chat Section"

PASTORAL PRAYER Burns

\* HYMN (#217) On a Barren Hilltop (sanctuary)

On a barren hilltop just outside the walls Of an ancient city as the evening falls, Speaks a dying figure hanging on a tree, Saying "It is finished," words of victory.

Tested just as we are, in a world of strife,

Through the pain and conflict of a human life, Here at last completed with his final breath Is a life triumphant over sin and death.

Let us then come boldly to the heavenly throne, Where our human seakness is so fully known, And the mercy given by which we are freed, And the grace provided for our time of need.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-6 (Becca Tweedie)

Mark 8: 31-8 (Elizabeth Bewley Goldsmith)

SPECIAL MUSIC When Jesus Wept (virtual choir video)

MESSAGE "Both Can Be True" Becca Tweedie, Seminarian

UNISON PRAYER (written by Howard Thurman) (sanctuary)

"Lord, make me an instrument of Thy Peace."

Teach me how to order my days that with sure touch I may say the right word at the right time and in the right way — lest I betray the spirit of peace.

Let me not be deceived by my own insecurity and weakness which would make me hurt another as I try desperately to help myself.

Keep watch with me, Holy God, over the days of my life, that with abiding enthusiasm I may be in such possession of myself that each day I may offer to Thee the full, unhampered use of me in all my parts as "an instrument of Thy Peace." Amen.

OFFERING (Sanctuary)

We can give online at <a href="www.fourthboston.org">www.fourthboston.org</a> OR send a check to Fourth Presbyterian Church, 340 Dorchester Street, South Boston, MA 02127

DOXOLOGY Tim, Michelle, Abe Sanchez & Grandma Jenny (in Somerville)

With a recording from a past worship service

#### CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Revs. Ed Freeborn & Ken Grant, Burns)

Musical Offering Draw Near to Me

Draw near to me; Please don't stay away for long
Draw near to me; My love for you is strong
For even if you're far away, I hold you in my heart
I sing a secret song to you, Each day we are apart
Draw near to me; Though it feels like you are far
Draw near to me; I'll be for you a guiding star
I will walk with you, And you can always walk with me
I'll hold you in my arms again – Draw near to me

\*HYMN – Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers (231)

(Sanctuary)

Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died, as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied. Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer; let the world confirm the rumor. Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people whom he loved and died to save; Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room. He whose word inspired creation is not silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange. Christ is risen. Christ is present making us what he has been – evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

\*BENEDICTION Spoken Response: Alleluia, Amen!

Sung Response God be with you till we meet again; Loving counsels guide, uphold you, With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again

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