

Welcome!

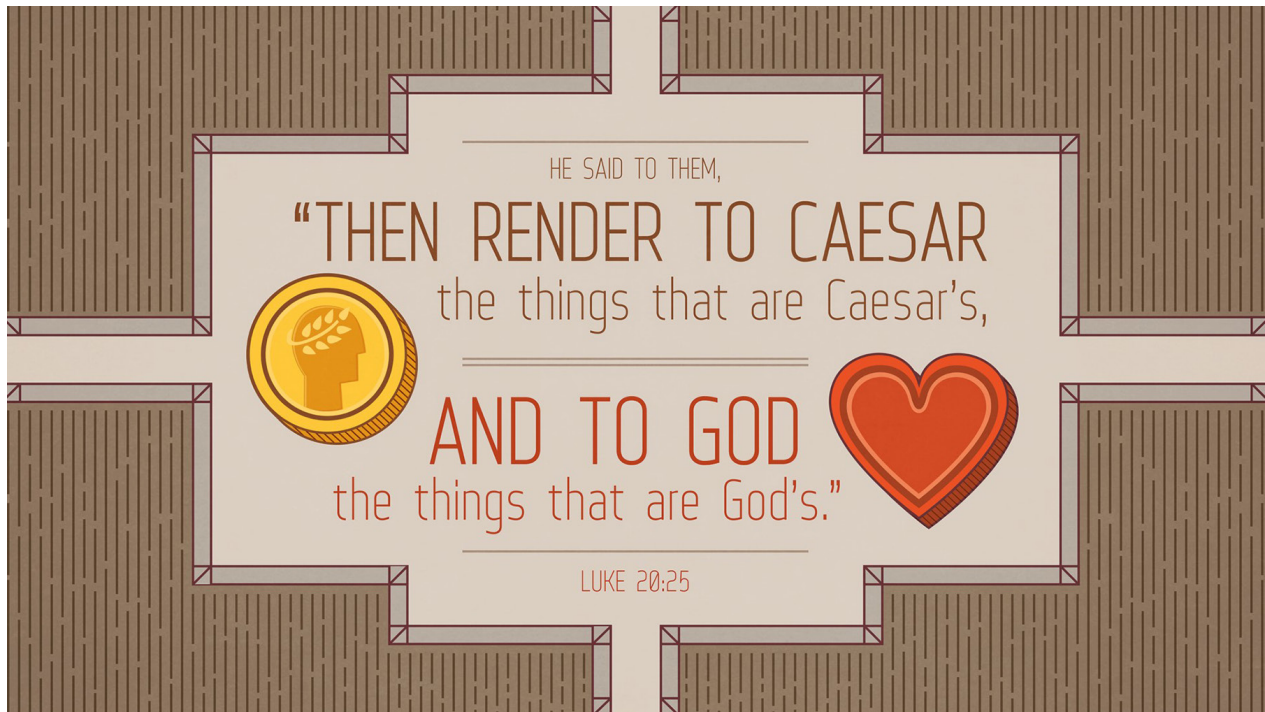
First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

March 15, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
AMISTAD SUNDAY



We respond to God's call by welcoming everyone regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, race, gender identity, sexual orientation or socio-economic background.

To proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, we affirm that all may share in the full life, ministry, fellowship, responsibilities and blessing of our congregation.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

An asterisk () indicates that worshipers are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Herb Niemeyer, *Announcer*

TOLLING THE BELL

Ryan White-Lenard, *Campanist*

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Payton White-Lenard, *Acolyte*

PRELUDE

Lenten Meditation

Albert Ketelby

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; People)

Iona Community

Our lips sing praise and our whole selves rejoice in the God who makes us free.

We gather, recognizing that not all human beings have known this freedom.

The divine will was made known in Eden and in Egypt; in Gettysburg and in Cape Town.

Born in freedom, redeemed from slavery, our destiny in Christ is liberty.

*RAISING THE COVENANT (Unison)

We who are called of God into this Christian community covenant together; to seek to know the will of God, to experience the joy and struggle of discipleship, to proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, and to work for peace and justice among all people. We trust God's promise of grace and forgiveness and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our trials and rejoicing.

*GATHERING HYMN

In Egypt under Pharaoh

No. 574

New Century Hymnal

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

Merrimon Boyd, *Student Minister*

**Invitation*

Jesus, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.

But only say the word, and your servant will be healed.

**Confession as a Community* (Unison)

A prayer for Amistad Sunday

We are thankful, God, for all the blessings of our lives. The joys are so great we might imagine ourselves impossibly distant from the suffering and pain of enslaved people, past and present. We might consider ourselves powerless to address the needs of such people today. But here we remember the heritage we have in the cause of human freedom. We celebrate this day our spiritual ancestors who worked for the freedom of the Mendi people on the slave ship, *Amistad*. May that ship, like the cross, remind us that human evil persists. May that ship, like the cross, remind us of the power of your love. Forgive us, we pray, when we have surrendered to powers of injustice. May we, through the same Holy Spirit that guided our forebears in faith, shed the false, un-neighborly, covetous, and dishonorable desires of human sin and turn, to go instead in the way that brings life; in Christ's name. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Words of Assurance* (Responsive)

The God who brought the Israelites out of Egypt is the Power freeing us from our sin.

If we live in the grace of God's love, as we go in the way of Jesus, then surely we shall find mercy along our road toward freedom. Amen.

*SINGING GOD'S GLORY

Sing Amen!

Trad. S. African

(Sing a - men) A - men, we praise your name, O God.

(Sing a - men) A - men, we praise your name, O God.

(Sing a - men) A - men, a - men, a - men a - men, a - men, we praise your name, O God.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Tracey Harris, DCE & Student Minister

The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.

Afterward, they may proceed to Sunday School classes, or return to their seats.

THE WORD SHARED

Merrimon Boyd

From the Gospels

Mark 12:13-17, 41-44

Pew Bible, pp. 923, 924

ANTHEM

The Oneness of Everything
(Chancel Choir)

Jim Scott

Far beyond the grasp of hands, or light to see the eye, past the reaches of the mind,
There find the key to nature's harmony in an architecture so entwined
Like the birds whose patterns grace the sky and carry all who join in love expanding,
The message of peace will rise in flight taking the weight of the world upon its wings,
In the oneness of everything.

Peace is in the dance of trees, who stir before the first breath of wind is yet perceived.
Trust in the song, becoming one with the dance, and all mysteries can be believed.
Songs of lives long past that touch our own are written in the earth ever giving,
And now to maintain the harmony gives to us all lives worth living,
For the oneness of everything.

Still we seek to find a truth that we might understand and reduce to terms defined
Vast and immeasurable time and space all so overwhelmingly designed.
Oh, passing years just might I know the faith that winters in the heart to be reborn in
spring.
To hear and to feel the pulse of life enters my soul as a song to sing,
Of the oneness of everything.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Money vs. Values"

Rev. David Denoon, Pastor

PRAYER HYMN

O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face
(Insert)

S. E. Murray

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayers of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Invitation

One Great Hour of Sharing (March 22)

Tracey Harris

Offertory

Offertory

Louis Vierne

*Song of Praise

Doxology

Tune: OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God, above you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Gracious God, works of faith and labors of love have made possible our gifts to you. By your own faithfulness and love, bless these gifts, we pray, so that through your church your message and mission may be shared not in word only but in power and Spirit and with full conviction. Amen.

*PARTING HYMN

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

No. 543, vv. 1,2,3,5
New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION (Responsive)

A Celtic Benediction

Thanks be to you, O Christ,

For the many gifts you have bestowed on us, each day and night, each sea and land, each weather fair, each calm, each wild.

Each day may we remember your mercy given so gently and generously.

Each thing we have received, from you it came; each thing for which we hope, from your love it will come; each thing we enjoy, it is of your bounty; each thing we ask, comes of your disposing.

O God, from whom each thing that is, so freely flows,

Grant that no tie over strict, no tie over dear, may be between ourselves and this world. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Lenten Postlude

Jonathan Batishill

DISMISSAL

Herb Niemeyer

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