

**First Congregational Church, UCC  
Fifth Sunday of Lent  
March 29, 2020  
Rev. Dr. Daniel Ling**

**Our Mission:  
Feeding the hungry in body, mind, and spirit  
“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,  
you are welcome at First Congregational Church.”**

**Welcome**

**Statement of Oneness (unison)**

**We are made in the image of God; thus, as we grow in faith and mature in spirit, that image shall shine all the more clearly. Like Jesus, we are children of God; thus, as our birthright, we shall live all our days surrounded by unconditional love. Humanity, the Image of God, is beautiful in God’s sight, part of a magnificent creation; therefore, we are beautiful in God’s sight.**

**The Scriptures declare that the entire Kingdom of God is within us. Also, we live our lives immersed in Divinity. We gather to celebrate that sacred and wondrous Truth.**

**Many hurtful and unjust things happen in our world, motivated by hatred or fear. Yet, also there is love in our hearts. Let us declare that love, acknowledge it is of God, and promise to grow in love day by day. Amen**

**Call to Worship**

**Psalm 130 (The Message)**

**One: Help me, O God, the bottom has fallen out of my life!**

**All: If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings, who would stand a chance?**

**One: As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit, and that’s why you are worshiped**

**All: I pray to God and wait for what God will say and do.**

**One: My life is on the line before God. Waiting and watching for God**

**All: With God’s arrival comes love, with God’s arrival comes generous redemption.**

**\*Hymn #446**

**I Need Thee Every Hour (2 verses, see enclosed - page 3)**

## **Morning Prayer** (*unison*)

**Dear God, are we allowed to laugh in the midst of the seriousness of the Coronavirus pandemic? When given a choice to worry or laugh, shouldn't we at least smile with joy since you are still with us and smiling on us daily. You have reminded us "to fear not" for you are always by our side. If laughter is good medicine, give us excess of it so that we may brim with your amazing grace, live in your presence daily and share your blessings with others. Through Jesus Christ who shared his unconditional love with us. Amen.**

## **Scripture Reading**                      **Romans 8: 5-11**

<sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## **Scripture Reading**                      **John 11:1-45** (see enclosed – page 5)

## **Sermon**                                      **Life on God's Terms**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

## **\*Hymn # 401**                              **Amazing Grace** (3 verses, see enclosed – page 4)

## **\*Benediction** (*unison*)

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, the comfort, guidance and challenge of the Holy Spirit be with each one of you now and always. Go in peace and the God of peace go with you. Amen**

# I Need Thee Every Hour

Words by:  
Annie Sherood Hawks. 1872.

Music by:  
Robert Lowry

Choir

I need Thee ev-'ry hour, Most gra - cious Lord; No  
I need Thee ev-'ry hour, Stay Thou near by; Temp -  
I need Thee ev-'ry hour, In joy or pain; Come  
I need Thee ev-'ry hour, Teach me Thy will; And  
I need Thee ev-'ry hour, Most Ho - ly One; O

5

ten - der voice like Thine can peace af - ford.  
ta - tions lose their pow'r when Thou art nigh.  
quick - ly and a - bide, or life is vain. I  
Thy rich pro - mis - es In me ful - fill.  
make me Thine in - deed, Thou bless - ed Son!

9

need Thee, O I need Thee; Ev - 'ry hour I need Thee; O

13

bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to Thee!

# Amazing Grace

John Newton, 1779 (1725-1807)

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, That  
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And  
3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace hath brought me  
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, Was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!  
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.