

# *Season of Epiphany*

## *January 20 through February 24, 2019*



The Protestant Reformation defined the Church as the place where the Word is preached and heard, and the Sacraments properly administered. In the season of Epiphany we listen attentively to Jesus' teachings as he slowly shows to us who he really is and prepares us for that truth. The cover picture comes from the magnificent Albi Cathedral in the south of France which proclaims him just that - the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

# Welcome to the season after Epiphany at First Church in Marlborough



We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the  
worship, service, and program life of First Church!  
This booklet will be your guide for Sunday Worship through February 24<sup>th</sup>

## NEW TO FIRST CHURCH?

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- ❖ We are delighted that you are here and we hope you will be blessed as you worship with us. If you wish, please sign the Guest Book located by the main door of the sanctuary.
- ❖ We invite you to stop by Coffee Hour after worship for fellowship and conversation.
- ❖ Feel free to ask the Deacons any questions regarding today's service.
- ❖ Please turn off all cell phones when in the Sanctuary. Men please remove your hats.
- ❖ Large print Bibles and hymnals are available in the Narthex.
- ❖ Individual listening devices for improved sound are also available from a Deacon.

## WORSHIP

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- ❖ The hymns are found in the purple 'Glory to God' Hymnal.
- ❖ The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God. As the Bulletin Headings remind us, the center of our worship is the Word – by which we mean both Scripture and also the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. When Scripture is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. It is this Living word that is the center of everything we do in worship. We listen for the Word of God. We respond in song, affirmation of our faith, prayer, and the giving of our gifts and dedication of our lives, and then God sends us back into the world to live out our faith, looking for God's work all around us. In the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we encounter the real, active, living presence of the same Living Word, Jesus Christ, our faithful Saviour.
- ❖ Music in worship, like our prayers is a thanksgiving offering to God. We invite you to sit and listen to the closing music as you end today's worship.

## CHILDREN

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If your infant or child needs care or you feel might become disruptive during the worship service, please be comfortable to leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. Child care for infants and toddlers is provided in the Nursery on the first floor.

## OUR WORSHIP BOOKLET

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- ❖ This worship booklet is designed to be used and re-used each Sunday through **February 24<sup>th</sup>**. Please leave it in the pew or in the basket in the Narthex as you depart the service UNLESS you wish to take one home.
- ❖ A PDF of the bulletin is on our website ([www.firstchurchnet.com](http://www.firstchurchnet.com)). Click 'Monthly Worship Bulletin'.

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

**Prelude** "By Still Waters" ~ J. Horspool **James Duncan**

**Greetings, Announcements, Flowers** **Lay Leader**

**Introit** "My Lord, What a Morning" **Joyful Ringers**

**Call to Worship** *Please stand.* **Lay Leader**

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**All: who made heaven and earth.**

One: What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

**All: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

One: O praise God with me,

**All: let us exalt God's name together.**

**Opening Hymn** "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" **#395**

**Call to Confession** **Lay Leader**

One: In the light of Christ, we see the darkness of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's saving love, let us confess our sins.

**Silence**

**All: Almighty God, we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of our world. We have depended on our possessions and have not placed our trust in your grace. We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth's resources. We have sought security in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us to true repentance that we may serve you faithfully. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance** **Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**

One: Hear the good news of the Gospel! Christ unmask the idols of our world and frees us from slavery to all that would oppress us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Summary of The Law ~ The Gospel According to Matthew 22: 37-40** **Lay Leader**

One: Our Lord Jesus said:

**All: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**

**One: This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:**

**All: you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

One: On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Prayer of the Day** *Please be seated after the Prayer.*

**LISTENING FOR THE WORD**

**A Word for All Ages** **Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**

**Scripture** Psalm 36 (*read together*) **Lay Leader**  
The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 12: 1-11

**One:** The Word of God for the people of God. **Lay Leader**  
**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** “Steal Away” ~ arr. Sandra Eithun **Joyful Ringers**

**Gospel Reading** The Gospel According to John 2: 1-11 **Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**  
*Children proceed down to Sunday School*

**Sermon** **Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**

**Sermon Hymn** “Sleepers, Awake! A Voice Astounds Us” **#349**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Prayers of the Church**  
 Joys and Concerns  
 Time of Silent Prayer  
 Prayer Response “Kum Ba Yah” **Chancel Choir**  
 Pastoral Prayer

**The Lord’s Prayer**  
*First Church uses the Debts/Debtors version, but please use the version most comfortable for you.*

**Service of Giving**  
**Offertory** “Forest Green” ~ arr. Sondra Tucker **Joyful Ringers**  
**Doxology and Prayer of Dedication** *Please stand.* **#606**

**BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**Dismissal** *Please stand.*  
**One:** Let Us Bless Our God.  
**All:** **God’s Name Be Praised.**

**Hymn** “Lift Every Voice and Sing” **#339**

**Benediction**

**Postlude** “Rise and Rejoice” ~ F. Ritter **James Duncan**

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

**Prelude**                      “Poeme” ~ L. Beethoven                      **James Duncan**

**Greetings, Announcements, Flowers**                      **Lay Leader**

**Introit**                      “Jesu, Jesu”                      **Chancel Choir**

**Call to Worship** *Please stand.*                      **Lay Leader**

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**All: who made heaven and earth.**

One: What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

**All: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

One: O praise God with me,

**All: let us exalt God’s name together.**

**Opening Hymn**                      “I Come with Joy”                      **#515**

**Call to Confession**                      **Lay Leader**

One: In the light of Christ, we see the darkness of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God’s saving love, let us confess our sins.

**Silence**

**All: Almighty God, we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of our world. We have depended on our possessions and have not placed our trust in your grace. We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth’s resources. We have sought security in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us to true repentance that we may serve you faithfully. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**                      **Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**

One: Hear the good news of the Gospel! Christ unmask the idols of our world and frees us from slavery to all that would oppress us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Act of Praise**                      To Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the God who we adore  
Be Glory as it was and is, and shall be evermore.

**Prayer of the Day** *Please be seated after the Prayer.*

**LISTENING FOR THE WORD**

**A Word for All Ages**

**Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**

**Scripture**

Psalm 19 (*read responsively*)  
 The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 12: 12-31

**Lay Leader**

**One:** The Word of God for the people of God.

**Lay Leader**

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** "Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door" ~ Trad. Spiritual/arr. R. Wise **Chancel Choir**

**Gospel Reading**

The Gospel According to Luke 4: 14-21

**Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**

*Children proceed down to Sunday School*

**Sermon**

**Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Apostles Creed** *Please stand.*

**One:** Let us confess the faith of our Baptism

**All:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the Virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Sermon Hymn**

**"Live into Hope"**

**#772**

**Prayers of the Church**

Joys and Concerns

Time of Silent Prayer

Prayer Response

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

**Chancel Choir**

Pastoral Prayer

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*First Church uses the Debts/Debtors version, but please use the version most comfortable for you.*

**Service of Giving**

**Offertory**

“Peace Be Unto You” ~ R. Anderson

**James Duncan**

**Doxology and Prayer of Dedication** *Please stand.*

**#606**

**BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**Dismissal** *Please stand.*

**One:** Let Us Bless Our God.

**All:** **God’s Name Be Praised.**

**Hymn**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

**#82**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Everlasting Victory” ~ H. Turner

**James Duncan**



**On the Lord's Supper from the Evangelical Catechism of 1847**

The Evangelical Catechism was the product of Evangelical unionist efforts on the early Missouri frontier, successfully combining Lutheran and Reformed themes to express their ecumenical outlook. It represents the Evangelical and Reformed Church piety that, in 1957, formed the United Church of Christ.

**Q & A 128: What does our communion daily require of us?**

Our communion requires that we daily keep in remembrance the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus, and that we consider well how hard it was for our Savior to bear our sins and the sins of the whole world, and to gain eternal salvation for us by offering up his life and shedding his blood. And since our sins caused the Lord Jesus the greatest sufferings, yea bitter death, we should have no pleasure in sin, but earnestly flee and avoid it; and being reclaimed by our Savior and Redeemer we should live, suffer and die to his honor, so that at all times and especially in the hour of death we may cheerfully and confidently say:  
Lord Jesus, for thee I live,  
for thee I suffer, for thee I die!  
Lord Jesus, thine will I be in life and death!  
Grant me, O Lord, eternal salvation! Amen.

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

**Prelude**                    “Communion” ~ C. Franck                    **James Duncan**

**Greetings, Announcements, Flowers & Bulletins**                    **Lay Leader**

**Introit**                    “O Come, Let Us Worship”                    **Chancel Choir**

**Call to Worship** *Please stand.*                    **Lay Leader**

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**All: who made heaven and earth.**

One: What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

**All: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

One: O praise God with me,

**All: let us exalt God’s name together.**

**Opening Hymn**                    “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”                    **#4**

**Call to Confession**                    **Lay Leader**

One: In the light of Christ, we see the darkness of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God’s saving love, let us confess our sins.

**Silence**

**All: Almighty God, we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of our world. We have depended on our possessions and have not placed our trust in your grace. We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth’s resources. We have sought security in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us to true repentance that we may serve you faithfully. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**                    **Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**

One: Hear the good news of the Gospel! Christ unmask the idols of our world and frees us from slavery to all that would oppress us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Act of Praise**                    To Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the God who we adore  
Be Glory as it was and is, and shall be evermore.

**Prayer of the Day** *Please be seated after the Prayer.*



<b>LISTENING FOR THE WORD</b>
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<b>Scripture</b>	Psalm 71: 1-16 ( <i>read together</i> ) The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 13: 1-13	<b>Lay Leader</b>
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One:	The Word of God for the people of God.	<b>Lay Leader</b>
All:	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>	

<b>Anthem</b>	“And the Father Will Dance” ~ Mark Hayes	<b>Chancel Choir</b>
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<b>Gospel Reading</b>	The Gospel According to Luke 4: 21-30	<b>Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem</b>
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<b>Sermon</b>		<b>Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem</b>
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<b>RESPONDING TO THE WORD</b>
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**Prayers of the Church**

Joys and Concerns

Time of Silent Prayer

Prayer Response “Wonderful Words of Life”

**Chancel Choir**

Pastoral Prayer

**Service of Giving**

Offertory “Bach Choral” ~ J.C. Bach

**James Duncan**Doxology and Prayer of Dedication *Please stand.***#606**

<b>FEASTING ON THE WORD</b>
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*We invite everyone who wishes to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior to partake of the bread and the cup. All are welcome at God’s table. It is our custom to eat the bread and drink the cup together, symbolic of our unity in the body of Christ our Lord. **Gluten-free bread is in paper baking cups. The cup is juice, not wine.***

<b>Hymn of Preparation</b> <i>Please stand.</i>	“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”	<b>#509</b>
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**Invitation to the Table and Silent Time of Centering** *Please be seated.*

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts!

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give our thanks and praise...  
who forever sing to the glory of your name.

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. #552**

### Words of Institution

You are holy, O God of majesty.... Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life evermore and therefore we joyfully proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**All: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. (sung twice) #553**

### Prayer of Consecration

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and on these your gifts of bread and wine...through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns and is worshipped and glorified with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever.

**All: Amen, Amen, Amen. #554**

### The Lord's Prayer

*First Church uses the Debts/Debtors version, but please use the version most comfortable for you.*

### Service of the Bread

The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

### Service of the Cup

The cup of salvation which we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

### Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Accomplished and concluded, Christ our Lord, is the mystery You have ordained. We have tasted Your death, shared in Your resurrection, and been filled with Your unending life. Stay with us now, that in the strength of Your presence and truth we may all go through our journey and at its end see You face-to-face in the glory of the eternal Trinity, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

<b>BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD</b>
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**Dismissal** *Please stand.*

**One:** Let Us Bless Our God.

**All:** God's Name Be Praised.

**Hymn** "My Song Is Love Unknown" #209

### Benediction

**Postlude** "Glorious Faith in God" ~ R. Sawyer **James Duncan**

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

**Prelude**                      “Jesus Is My Hope” ~ R. Sawyer                      **James Duncan**

**Greetings, Announcements, Flowers**                      **Lay Leader**

**Introit**                      “Non Nobis Domine”                      **Chancel Choir**

**Call to Worship** *Please stand.*                      **Lay Leader**

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**All: who made heaven and earth.**

One: What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

**All: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

One: O praise God with me,

**All: let us exalt God’s name together.**

**Opening Hymn**                      “Here I Am, Lord”                      **#69**

**Call to Confession**                      **Lay Leader**

One: In the light of Christ, we see the darkness of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God’s saving love, let us confess our sins.

**Silence**

**All: Almighty God, we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of our world. We have depended on our possessions and have not placed our trust in your grace. We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth’s resources. We have sought security in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us to true repentance that we may serve you faithfully. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**                      **Russ Goliger**

One: Hear the good news of the Gospel! Christ unmask the idols of our world and frees us from slavery to all that would oppress us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Act of Praise**                      To Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the God who we adore  
Be Glory as it was and is, and shall be evermore.

**Prayer of the Day** *Please be seated after the Prayer.*

<b>LISTENING FOR THE WORD</b>
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**A Word for All Ages****Russ Goliger****Scripture**Psalm 71: 17-24 (*read together*)**Lay Leader**

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15: 1-11

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

**Lay Leader**All: **Thanks be to God.****Anthem** "Children Go Where I Send Thee" ~ Traditional Spiritual**Children's Choir****Gospel Reading**

The Gospel According to Luke 5: 1-11

**Russ Goliger***Children proceed down to Sunday School***Sermon****Russ Goliger****Sermon Hymn**

"Hear the Good News of Salvation"

**#441**

<b>RESPONDING TO THE WORD</b>
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**Prayers of the Church**

Joys and Concerns

Time of Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer (Sung)***First Church uses the Debts/Debtors version, but please use the version most comfortable for you.***Service of Giving***The second collection this week is for the Deacon's Fund, used to provide temporary financial assistance to church members in need. It is also used to sustain the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for cases in need. If you know of anyone who might benefit from this fund, please speak to one of the Deacons or Pastor Kaz.***Offertory** "Tú has venido a la orilla" ~ Cesáreo Gabaráin**Chancel Choir****Doxology and Prayer of Dedication** *Please stand.***#606**

<b>BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD</b>
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**Dismissal** *Please stand.*

One: Let Us Bless Our God.

All: **God's Name Be Praised.****Hymn**

"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"

**#432****Benediction****Postlude**

"Retrospection" ~ E. Ashford

**James Duncan**

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

**Prelude**                    "Sarabande" ~ G. Young                    **James Duncan**

**Greetings, Announcements, Flowers**                    **Lay Leader**

**Introit**                    "A Festive Procession" ~ Debra LeBrun                    **Joyful Ringers**

**Call to Worship** *Please stand.*                    **Lay Leader**

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**All: who made heaven and earth.**

One: What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

**All: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

One: O praise God with me,

**All: let us exalt God's name together.**

**Opening Hymn**                    "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"                    **#629**

**Call to Confession**                    **Lay Leader**

One: In the light of Christ, we see the darkness of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's saving love, let us confess our sins.

**Silence**

**All: Almighty God, we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of our world. We have depended on our possessions and have not placed our trust in your grace. We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth's resources. We have sought security in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us to true repentance that we may serve you faithfully. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**                    **Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**

One: Hear the good news of the Gospel! Christ unmask the idols of our world and frees us from slavery to all that would oppress us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Summary of The Law ~ The Gospel According to Matthew 22: 37-40**                    **Lay Leader**

One: Our Lord Jesus said:

**All: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**

**One: This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:**

**All: you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

One: On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Prayer of the Day** *Please be seated after the Prayer.*

<b>LISTENING FOR THE WORD</b>
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**A Word for All Ages**

Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem

**Scripture**Psalm 1 (*read together*)

Lay Leader

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15: 12-20

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

Lay Leader

All: **Thanks be to God.****Anthem**

"Winter Meditation" ~ Winnagene Hatch

Joyful Ringers

**Gospel Reading**

The Gospel According to Luke 6: 17-26

Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem

*Children proceed down to Sunday School***Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem

**Sermon Hymn**

"Give Thanks, O Christian People"

#644

<b>RESPONDING TO THE WORD</b>
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**Prayers of the Church**

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Prayer Response

"Dear Savior, Bless the Children"

Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer***First Church uses the Debts/Debtors version, but please use the version most comfortable for you.***Service of Giving**

Offertory "God of the Mountains" ~ arr. David Kellermeyer

Joyful Ringers

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication *Please stand.*

#606

<b>BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD</b>
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**Dismissal** *Please stand.*

One: Let Us Bless Our God.

All: **God's Name Be Praised.****Hymn**

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

#839

**Benediction****Postlude**

"Toccata" ~ G. Young

James Duncan

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

**Prelude**                      “Carillon” ~ G. Young                      **James Duncan**

**Greetings, Announcements, Flowers**                      **Lay Leader**

**Introit**                      “Imela”                      **Chancel Choir**

**Call to Worship** *Please stand.*                      **Lay Leader**

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**All: who made heaven and earth.**

One: What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

**All: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

One: O praise God with me,

**All: let us exalt God’s name together.**

**Opening Hymn**                      “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”                      **#12**

**Call to Confession**                      **Lay Leader**

One: In the light of Christ, we see the darkness of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God’s saving love, let us confess our sins.

**Silence**

**All: Almighty God, we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of our world. We have depended on our possessions and have not placed our trust in your grace. We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth’s resources. We have sought security in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us to true repentance that we may serve you faithfully. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**                      **Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**

One: Hear the good news of the Gospel! Christ unmask the idols of our world and frees us from slavery to all that would oppress us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Act of Praise**                      To Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the God who we adore  
Be Glory as it was and is, and shall be evermore.

**Prayer of the Day** *Please be seated after the Prayer.*

<b>LISTENING FOR THE WORD</b>
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**A Word for All Ages****Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**

**Scripture**          Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40 (*read responsively*)  
                               The Gospel According to Luke 6: 27-38

**Lay Leader****One:**    The Word of God for the people of God.**Lay Leader****All:**    **Thanks be to God.****Anthem**          “Cantique de Jean Racine” ~ G. Fauré**Chancel Choir**

**Sermon Text**    The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15: 35-50  
*Children proceed down to Sunday School*

**Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem****Sermon****Rev. Dr. Kaz Bem**

<b>RESPONDING TO THE WORD</b>
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**Apostles Creed** *Please stand.***One:**    Let us confess the faith of our Baptism**All:**    **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Sermon Hymn**

“The Strife Is O’er”

**#236**



**Prayers of the Church**

Joys and Concerns

Time of Silent Prayer

Prayer Response

Pastoral Prayer

“Simple Gifts”

**Chancel Choir**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*First Church uses the Debts/Debtors version, but please use the version most comfortable for you.*

**Service of Giving**

**Offertory**

“Bach Choral” ~ J.C. Bach

**James Duncan**

**Doxology and Prayer of Dedication** *Please stand.*

**#606**

**BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**Dismissal** *Please stand.*

**One:** Let Us Bless Our God.

**All:** **God’s Name Be Praised.**

**Hymn**

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

**#408**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Postlude” ~ E. Ashford

**James Duncan**



**Prayer According to the Evangelical Catechism of 1847**

The Evangelical Catechism was the product of Evangelical unionist efforts on the early Missouri frontier, successfully combining Lutheran and Reformed themes to express their ecumenical outlook. It represents the Evangelical and Reformed Church piety that, in 1957, formed the United Church of Christ.

***Q & A 101: What is prayer?***

Prayer is the conversation of the heart with God for the purpose of praising him, asking God to supply the needs of ourselves and others, and thanking God for whatever God gives us. Ps. 19:14. Ps. 34:3. Ps. 103:1-4. Matt. 6:6. Matt. 7:7- 8. Matt. 18:19-20. Matt. 21:22. Ps. 92:1. 1 Tim. 2:1-2. 1 Thess. 5:17.

***Q & A 112: Why is prayer necessary?***

Prayer is necessary because God will give his grace and his Holy Spirit only to those who earnestly and without ceasing ask them of him, and render thanks unto him. Luke 18:7-8. Luke 11:13. Ps. 55:16-17. Jas. 5:16.

***Q & A 113: How should we pray?***

We should pray humbly because of our need and unworthiness; and yet with faith, believing that for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord God will certainly hear our prayer. Dan. 9:18. Matt. 21:22. John 15:7. Jas. 1:6.

# What's Happening at First Church

## **Bible Study (EXCEPT February 5 and 12)**

- ~ Tuesday mornings at 10:00am with Pastor Kaz in Classroom 7. The current program is on The Gospel According to Luke.
- ~ Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm with Pastor Kaz in Classroom 7. New to the Bible or not, new to bible study or not, you are all welcome as we begin at the beginning with Genesis.

**Music** ~ Sing with the Chancel Choir (rehearsals 7:00pm on Thursdays) or Ring with the Joyful Ringers Handbell group (rehearsals 7:00pm on Mondays). Music is also part of the Sunday School curriculum at First Church. Our children share their talents with the congregation periodically throughout the year during our worship service. The leaders to contact for these groups are listed on the back page of this bulletin.

## **Service and Volunteer Opportunities**

- ~ **Our Father's Table** - First Church serves dinner for Our Father's Table in downtown Marlborough every month on the third Wednesday (February date is the 19<sup>th</sup>). Please check the green weekly Worship Information sheets for details or see Carol MacEwen.
- ~ **The Worcester Fellowship-sponsored "Thursday Café"** runs on Thursdays from noon until 4:00pm. This is a program held at All Saints Church in Worcester where a food and clothing are provided to homeless guests who stop by. There is an enormous need for men's and women's new cotton socks, men's new boxer shorts, and women's new underwear. Please see Sue Pellerin or email her in the church office with any donations or questions!

## **Fellowship**

- ~ **Women's Fellowship** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month usually at 6:30pm in Parish Hall (in February they hold their lunch meeting/program at noon).
- ~ **Men's Fellowship** meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 11:30am in Classroom 7.
- ~ **Join us after worship for Coffee Hour** and spend time with members and friends of First Church.

## **Community Partners**

- ~ **"One Step at a Time"** grief support meetings are held here on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Join the peer-led support group where members share experiences, resources and strategies from their own grief journeys as we cope with the loss of a loved one from drugs/alcohol. For more info please see Kathy Leonard.
- ~ **OUT Metrowest** runs three different programs in Framingham. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month is Nexus, a group for LGBTQ and Allied middle-schoolers; the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month is Umbrella, a group for trans and gender non-conforming high schoolers; and every Thursday, a drop-in for all LGBTQ middle and high schoolers. Please see [www.outmetrowest.org](http://www.outmetrowest.org) for more information on times and address. On March 15<sup>th</sup> they will be hosting the movie "Love, Simon" in our Parish Hall at 7pm.
- ~ **Early Risers Fresh Start Group** is an Alcoholic Anonymous fellowship whose only requirement for membership is the desire to stop drinking. Meetings are held here on Saturday mornings in Parish Hall from 6:45am-8:30am. Additional daily meetings are held nearby at 33 Main Street, Sunday through Friday from 6:45am-7:45am.

# *Comforting Words from the Heidelberg Catechism*

The Heidelberg Catechism, written in 1563, originated in one of the few pockets of Calvinistic faith in the Lutheran and Catholic territories of Germany. Conceived originally as a teaching instrument to promote religious unity, the catechism soon became a guide for preaching as well. It is a remarkably warm-hearted and personalized confession of faith, eminently deserving of its popularity among Reformed churches to the present day. It is one of the United Church of Christ's historical testimonies or statements of faith.

## ***Q & A 1: What is your only comfort in life and in death?***

That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul,  
in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,  
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life  
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

## ***Q & A 27: What do you understand by the providence of God?***

The almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds, as with his hand,  
heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and  
drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and  
poverty – all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

## ***Q & A 28: How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?***

We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well,  
and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father  
that nothing in creation will separate us from his love.

For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither  
move nor be moved.

## ***Q & A 32: But why are you called a Christian?***

Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing.

I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks,  
to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign  
with Christ over all creation for eternity.

# Contacting First Church

## FIRST CHURCH CARES AND CONCERNS

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To notify Pastor Kaz of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion, please email Pastor Kaz at [kdebem@gmail.com](mailto:kdebem@gmail.com) or contact the church office at 508-485-6297.

Pastor Kaz will be on the Holy Land Trip from February 4<sup>th</sup> until February 14<sup>th</sup>. In the event of a pastoral need, please contact Rev. Valeria Schmidt from Trinity Church Northborough (717-860-8873), or Sue Pellerin in the church office, or one of the Deacon Co-Chairs (Andy Dunn and Dave Kemp).

## FIRST CHURCH STAFF

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Senior Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Kazimierz Bem ( <a href="mailto:kdebem@gmail.com">kdebem@gmail.com</a> )
Adjunct Pastor:	Rev. Jon Wortmann
Honorary Pastor Emerita:	Rev. Phyllis Frechette
Church Administrator:	Susan Pellerin ( <a href="mailto:office@firstchurchnet.com">office@firstchurchnet.com</a> )
Clerk:	Deborah Marino
Collector:	Pamela Patten ( <a href="mailto:ppatten725@gmail.com">ppatten725@gmail.com</a> )
Co-Superintendents:	Lynette Biggs ( <a href="mailto:lynette_biggs@wayland.k12.ma.us">lynette_biggs@wayland.k12.ma.us</a> ) Anita Stetson ( <a href="mailto:camdenview@aol.com">camdenview@aol.com</a> )
Handbell Director:	Diane Burke
Moderator:	Joan Campbell
Music Director:	Elinor A. Armsby
Organist:	James Duncan
Sexton:	Cliff Fenton
Treasurer:	Jeremey Crocker ( <a href="mailto:treasurer@firstchurchnet.com">treasurer@firstchurchnet.com</a> )
Youth Choir:	Jenn Bastien ( <a href="mailto:lessonswithjenn@gmail.com">lessonswithjenn@gmail.com</a> )

## HOURS AND INFORMATION

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37 High Street, Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752

Office phone: 508-485-6297

Website ~ [www.firstchurchnet.com](http://www.firstchurchnet.com)

Office Email ~ [office@firstchurchnet.com](mailto:office@firstchurchnet.com)

Church Office Hours: Tues. through Thurs. 9:00am -3:00pm

Pastor Kaz Office Hours ~ Mondays at The Coffee Loft on Lincoln Street from 9:00am - Noon (or by appointment at other times). **PLEASE CHECK THE CALENDAR ON THE WEEKLY GREEN SHEET FOR ANY DATES THE 'COFFEE LOFT HOURS' MAY BE CHANGED.**