

# Season of Lent

## March 10 through April 7, 2019



This is a picture of the 16th century painted wooden sculpture from the Basilica of St. Nazaire in Carcassonne, France of Mary holding Jesus' dead body in her arms. This representation is called "Pieta" or "Pity" but the title is deceiving - we are not to pity Mary or Jesus. Rather, beholding Christ's body laid down for us, we should pity ourselves and our state. It is such, that only the passion of God in Jesus could redeem and ransom us. This Lent or Passion Tide, may we behold Christ's "YES" for us manifested on the cross, and come home to God.

# *Welcome to the season of Lent 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 April 7<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.
- ❖ Lenten worship is a special time in the church's liturgical year. The "Prayer of Humble Access" before Communion comes from the so-called "First Prayer Book" of King Edward VI and Thomas Cranmer (1549). It was retained in the 1662 "Book of Common Prayer" and is still used by the Church of England and the Church of Scotland today.

## **TOLLING OF THE CHIMES**

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As in previous years, until Good Friday, we will follow a tradition from the Lutheran Church of Norway. There, at the end of each Sunday service, the bell tolls three times to give people the opportunity for individual, quiet prayer. We invite you to use the period during which the chimes toll to focus once again on God in prayer and the Holy Week. We will follow the Reformed, Lutheran and Anglican traditions this Lent, with whom we are united by our baptism in Christ.

## **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 April 7<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**                      "Peace Be Unto You" ~ R. Anderson                      **James Duncan**

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

**Introit**                      "Call to Worship" ~ E. Armsby                      **Chancel Choir**

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

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

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

One: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

**All: Hope in God for we shall praise him, our help, and our God.**

One: Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace; approach our God, who is full of mercy.

**All: We will praise our God with all our heart; and glorify the name of the Most High forever.**

**Opening Hymn**                      "Forty Days and Forty Nights"                      **#167**

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

One: God spoke through the prophet Zechariah: "Return to me, and I will return to you" and also the prophet Joel: "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." Trusting in these promises, let us give ourselves to the grace of God, and confess our sins before God and one another.

**Silence**

**All: Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness of the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

One: So says our God: "Can a woman forget her nursing child or show no compassion to the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you!" Hear and receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**All: Amen. To God be thanks and praise.**

**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 91 (read together) The Gospel According to Luke 4: 1-3	<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>	“Down in the River” ~ arr. Larry Nickel	<b>Chancel Choir</b>
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<b>Sermon Text</b>	The Letter of Paul to the Romans 10:8b-13	<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  
Pastoral Prayer

**The Lord’s Prayer (Sung)****Service of Giving**

*The second offering today is for the UCC One Great Hour of Sharing ministry. When you give through OGHs you are helping those who suffer from natural disasters, war, or systemic poverty. You are welcome to put your donation in one of the UCC envelopes in the pews.*

Offertory	“Interlude” ~ G. Young	<b>Chancel Choir</b>
	Doxology and Prayer of Dedication <i>Please stand.</i>	<b>#606</b>

<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. Children will join their families from Sunday School.*

<b>Hymn of Preparation</b>	Please stand. “An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare”	<b>#202</b>
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**Invitation to the Table****Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Pastor:	The Lord be with you.	
All:	<b>And also with you.</b>	
Any:	Lift Up Your Hearts!	
All:	<b>We lift them up to the Lord.</b>	
One:	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	
All:	<b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b>	

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give our thanks and praise our God and our Redeemer...with the heavenly host who forever sings 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 our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

One: 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 is risen, Christ will come again!**

One: 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!**

### Prayer of Humble Approach

**All: We do not presume to come to Your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own goodness, but in Your all-embracing love and mercy. We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under Your table, but it is Your nature always to have mercy. So feed us now with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son, that in these holy mysteries we may forever live in him and he in us. Amen.**

### The Service of Holy Communion by Intinction

#### Post Communion Thanksgiving Psalm 103

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all the benefits of the Lord,**

One: who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

**All: who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness;**

One: who satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagles.

**All: The Lord executes righteousness and judgement for all who are oppressed.**

<b>BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD</b>
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#### Concluding Prayers & Dismissal *Please stand.*

One: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,

**All: that we may show forth Your glory.**

One: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**All: bring us with all Your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

One: Let Us Bless Our God.

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

**Hymn** "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

**#618**

#### Benediction

#### Tolling of the Chimes



<b>LISTENING FOR THE WORD</b>
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<b>Scripture</b>	Psalm 27 (read together) The Gospel According to Luke 13: 31-35	<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>	“Kyrie” ~ Cathy Moglebust	<b>Joyful Ringers</b>
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<b>Sermon Text</b>	The Letter of Paul to the Philippians 3:17-4:1	<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

“Seek Ye First”

Pastoral Prayer

**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 “Shadows” ~ Barbara Werner

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication *Please stand.***Joyful Ringers****#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. Children will join their families from Sunday School.*

<b>Hymn of Preparation</b> <i>Please stand.</i>	“We Who Once Were Dead”	<b>#502</b>
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**Invitation to the Table****Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Any: 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 our God and our Redeemer...with the heavenly host who forever sings 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 our God! Hosanna in the highest!**
- One: 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 is risen, Christ will come again!**
- One: 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!**

### Prayer of Humble Approach

- All: **We do not presume to come to Your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own goodness, but in Your all-embracing love and mercy. We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under Your table, but it is Your nature always to have mercy. So feed us now with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son, that in these holy mysteries we may forever live in him and he in us. Amen.**

### The Service of Holy Communion by Intinction

#### Post Communion Thanksgiving Psalm 103

- One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- All: **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all the benefits of the Lord,**
- One: who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;
- All: **who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness;**
- One: who satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagles.
- All: **The Lord executes righteousness and judgement for all who are oppressed.**

### BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

#### Concluding Prayers & Dismissal *Please stand.*

- One: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,
- All: **that we may show forth Your glory.**
- One: By the cross and passion of our Savior,
- All: **bring us with all Your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**
- One: Let Us Bless Our God.
- All: **God's Name Be Praised.**

Hymn "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

#213

#### Benediction

#### Tolling of the Chimes

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

**Prelude**                      "Poeme" ~ L. Beethoven                      **James Duncan**

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

**Introit**                      "Come and Fill Our Hearts"                      **Chancel Choir**

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

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

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

One: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

**All: Hope in God for we shall praise him, our help, and our God.**

One: Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace; approach our God, who is full of mercy.

**All: We will praise our God with all our heart; and glorify the name of the Most High forever.**

**Opening Hymn**                      "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee"                      **#816**

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

One: God spoke through the prophet Zechariah: "Return to me, and I will return to you" and also the prophet Joel: "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." Trusting in these promises, let us give ourselves to the grace of God, and confess our sins before God and one another.

**Silence**

**All: Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness of the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

One: So says our God: "Can a woman forget her nursing child or show no compassion to the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you!" Hear and receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**All: Amen. To God be thanks and praise.**

**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>	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63 verses 1-8 (read together)	<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>	“Cantique de Jean Racine” ~ G. Faure	<b>Chancel Choir</b>
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<b>Gospel Reading</b>	The Gospel According to Luke 13: 1-9	<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 “Ubi Caritas”

Pastoral Prayer

**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 “Praeludium” ~ G. Young

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication *Please stand.***Chancel Choir****#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. Children will join their families from Sunday School.*

<b>Hymn of Preparation</b>	<i>Please stand.</i> “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”	<b>#514</b>
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**Invitation to the Table****Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Any: 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 our God and our Redeemer...with the heavenly host who forever sings 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 our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

One: 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 is risen, Christ will come again!**

One: 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!**

### Prayer of Humble Approach

**All: We do not presume to come to Your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own goodness, but in Your all-embracing love and mercy. We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under Your table, but it is Your nature always to have mercy. So feed us now with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son, that in these holy mysteries we may forever live in him and he in us. Amen.**

### The Service of Holy Communion by Intinction

#### Post Communion Thanksgiving Psalm 103

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all the benefits of the Lord,**

One: who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

**All: who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness;**

One: who satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagles.

**All: The Lord executes righteousness and judgement for all who are oppressed.**

### BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

#### Concluding Prayers & Dismissal *Please stand.*

One: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,

**All: that we may show forth Your glory.**

One: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**All: bring us with all Your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

One: Let Us Bless Our God.

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

#### Hymn

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

#65

#### Benediction

#### Tolling of the Chimes

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**Prelude**                      "O Jesus I Have Promised" ~ L. Warriner                      **James Duncan**

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

**Introit**                      "Lord, Be Glorified"                      **Chancel Choir**

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

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

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

One: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

**All: Hope in God for we shall praise him, our help, and our God.**

One: Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace; approach our God, who is full of mercy.

**All: We will praise our God with all our heart; and glorify the name of the Most High forever.**

**Opening Hymn**                      "When God Delivered Israel"                      **#73**

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

One: God spoke through the prophet Zechariah: "Return to me, and I will return to you" and also the prophet Joel: "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." Trusting in these promises, let us give ourselves to the grace of God, and confess our sins before God and one another.

**Silence**

**All: Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness of the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

One: So says our God: "Can a woman forget her nursing child or show no compassion to the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you!" Hear and receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**All: Amen. To God be thanks and praise.**

**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 32 (read together) Joshua 5:9-12	<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>	“Wayfaring Stranger” ~ arr. Larry Shackley	<b>Chancel Choir</b>
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<b>Gospel Reading</b>	The Gospel According to Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32	<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 “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 “Prayer from Othello” ~ G. Verdi

**Chancel Choir**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. Children will join their families from Sunday School.*

<b>Hymn of Preparation</b> <i>Please stand.</i>	“What Wondrous Love Is This”	<b>#215</b>
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**Invitation to the Table****Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Any: 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 our God and our Redeemer...with the heavenly host who forever sings 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 our God! Hosanna in the highest!**
- One: 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 is risen, Christ will come again!**
- One: 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!**

### Prayer of Humble Approach

- All: We do not presume to come to Your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own goodness, but in Your all-embracing love and mercy. We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under Your table, but it is Your nature always to have mercy. So feed us now with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son, that in these holy mysteries we may forever live in him and he in us. Amen.**

### The Service of Holy Communion by Intinction

#### Post Communion Thanksgiving Psalm 103

- One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all the benefits of the Lord,**
- One: who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;
- All: who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness;**
- One: who satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagles.
- All: The Lord executes righteousness and judgement for all who are oppressed.**

### BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

#### Concluding Prayers & Dismissal *Please stand.*

- One: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,
- All: that we may show forth Your glory.**
- One: By the cross and passion of our Savior,
- All: bring us with all Your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**
- One: Let Us Bless Our God.
- All: God's Name Be Praised.**

Hymn "What Is the World Like"

#771

### Benediction

### Tolling of the Chimes

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**Prelude**                      "Morning Hymn" ~ G. Young                      **James Duncan**

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

**Introit**                      "Imela"                      **Chancel Choir**

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

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

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

One: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

**All: Hope in God for we shall praise him, our help, and our God.**

One: Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace; approach our God, who is full of mercy.

**All: We will praise our God with all our heart; and glorify the name of the Most High forever.**

**Opening Hymn**                      "How Firm a Foundation"                      **#463**

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

One: God spoke through the prophet Zechariah: "Return to me, and I will return to you" and also the prophet Joel: "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." Trusting in these promises, let us give ourselves to the grace of God, and confess our sins before God and one another.

**Silence**

**All: Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness of the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

One: So says our God: "Can a woman forget her nursing child or show no compassion to the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you!" Hear and receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**All: Amen. To God be thanks and praise.**

**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>	Isaiah 43:16-21 The Gospel According to John 12:1-8	<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>	“Amazing Grace” ~ arr. Ed Lojeski	<b>Chancel Choir</b>
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<b>Sermon Text</b>	Psalm 126	<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 and Time of Silent Prayer

Prayer Response “O Thou Who Hearest Every Heartfelt Prayer” **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 “Just as I Am, I Come” ~ arr. Mary McDonald **Diane Burke & Tambre Knox**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. Children will join their families from Sunday School.*

<b>Hymn of Preparation</b> <i>Please stand.</i>	“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”	<b>#347</b>
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**Invitation to the Table****Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Any: 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 our God and our Redeemer...with the heavenly host who forever sings 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 our God! Hosanna in the highest!

**One:** 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 is risen, Christ will come again!

**One:** 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!

### Prayer of Humble Approach

**All:** We do not presume to come to Your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own goodness, but in Your all-embracing love and mercy. We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under Your table, but it is Your nature always to have mercy. So feed us now with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son, that in these holy mysteries we may forever live in him and he in us. Amen.

### 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?

### Post Communion Thanksgiving Psalm 103

**One:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**All:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all the benefits of the Lord,

**One:** who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

**All:** who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness;

**One:** who satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagles.

**All:** The Lord executes righteousness and judgement for all who are oppressed.

<b>BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD</b>
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### Concluding Prayers & Dismissal *Please stand.*

**One:** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,

**All:** that we may show forth Your glory.

**One:** By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**All:** bring us with all Your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

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

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

**Hymn** "A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar"

#201

**Benediction and Tolling of the Chimes**

# *Holy Week and Easter Services*

## ***PALM & PASSION SUNDAY - APRIL 14 AT 10:00 AM***

We begin the service with the children processing around the church to reenact Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. At the end of the service the Passion Narrative will be read to help us prepare for Good Friday.

## ***MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 18 AT 7:00 PM***

This is a celebration of the Institution of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. For those who wish, the service of the washing of the feet will be provided. Worship will conclude with the stripping of the church.

## ***GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 19 AT 7:00 PM***

We celebrate the love of God shown in the Cross of Jesus Christ. This service will have the format of the Tenebrae Service and will follow the Passion Narrative according to Luke.

## ***HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL - APRIL 20 AT 7:32 PM***

This service is a time when we renew our Baptismal Vows. The Gospel will be read in various languages. Bring your children with you.

## ***EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE - APRIL 21 AT 6:30 AM***

Sunrise Service at the Marlborough Country Club  
*(there is breakfast following the Service hosted by the  
First Baptist Church at 22 Mechanic Street)*

## ***EASTER MORNING SERVICE - APRIL 21 AT 10:00 AM***

**10:00am Joyous, noisy, and festive family Easter rejoicing at First Church.  
Our crowning service of the year!**

# What's Happening at First Church

**Bible Study** ~ Tuesday mornings at 10:00am and 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 to either of these groups!

**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 (March date is the 19th and April date is the 16<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. Check your weekly worship sheets for the upcoming Spring Rummage Sale on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

~ **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.

~ **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.

# 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.

## 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 (Interim Richard Rowell)
Treasurer:	Jeremy 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 WORSHIP SHEET FOR ANY DATES THE 'COFFEE LOFT HOURS' MAY BE CHANGED.**

