

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 2, 2008

10:00 AM

MINISTERS:

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

PASTOR:

THE REV. JOHN DAVID HEECKT

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

JEAN EARLY

GATHERING AND PREPARATION

Prelude

Introit: *The Lord is in His Holy Temple* W. Price

Greeting, Announcements, and Mission Moment

Call to Worship Amanda Grose

One: God spoke these words, and said: I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not make for yourself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in the heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth, you shall not bow down to them, or worship them.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: Remember the Sabbath day, and keep in holy.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: Honor your father and your mother.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not murder.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not commit adultery.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not steal.

All: Lord have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not covet.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and write your laws in our hearts.

Confession and Declaration of Pardon

One: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is not another commandment greater than these.

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence stand together and draw near to the throne of grace, that we might receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

***All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.**

*One: Almighty God have mercy on you, and forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

***The Lord's Prayer** (*using "sins"*)

***Hymn:** *Amazing Grace*

NCH 547

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: I Samuel 16:1-13 OT Pg. 259(LP Pg. 322)

Connor Rowe

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 23 OT Pg. 501 (LP Pg. 617)

Second Reading: John 9:1-41 NT Pg. 102 (LP Pg. 125)

Courtney Welton, Paget Grose, and Tyler Welton

Anthem: *Brother James' Air* G. Jacob, arr. C. Strommen

Time With the Children

***Hymn:** *My Shepherd is the Living God*

PH 247

*(*All who are able, please stand.)*

Sermon

***The Apostles' Creed:**

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day he rose again, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We 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.

***Hymn:** *Just As I Am* NCH 207

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Offering

Offertory *Thou, Whose Almighty Word* F. de Giardini

***Doxology** PH 515

***Unison Prayer of Dedication:**

All gracious God, we give you thanks for both your many blessings of the past week, and for the opportunity to return to you a portion of that with which you have blessed us. Receive this offering, we pray, multiply it, and put it to work, both in this congregation and beyond, so that your Kingdom may be established and your Name may be praised. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers on the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***Hymn:** *God Be With You Till We Meet Again* PH 61

Benediction

Choral Response: *Threefold Amen*

Postlude:

RIDGEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GATHERED 1760

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

RIDGEBURY ROAD AT GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGHWAY
605 RIDGEBURY ROAD, RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06877
(203) 748-2806 www.ridgeburychurch.org FAX (203) 748-3564