

Worship on the Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024

Dr. Clifford Anderson, Guest Preacher
Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist

Prelude "For lo, the Winter" by Lani Smith

Welcome

Call to Worship

Lord Jesus, open our eyes **to see clearly your light shining in the world.**

Holy Spirit, illumine our minds **to perceive the glory of God's radiance among us.**

Almighty God, prepare our hearts **to trust you and worship you.**

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, in order that the children of earth might discern good from evil you gave the incomparable gift of your law. As your Son Jesus Christ, the light of the world, shines upon us may we learn what pleases you and live in all truth and goodness. We pray through Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

Hymn 102 "Now Thank We All Our God"

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, sometimes our preconceived notions blind us to your activity in our lives. We watch for signs of your glory in those who are successful and strong, in pious acts and answered prayers, in favorable outcomes and dreams fulfilled. But you also make yourself known in unexpected ways: a shepherd lifted to the throne of Israel or a dark valley transformed by your presence. By your Spirit prepare our hearts to receive your amazing grace in Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Numbers 21:4-9

New Testament John 3:1-21

Sermon "The Serpent of Bronze" Dr. Clifford Anderson

Offertory "Help Us Accept Each Other" by John Ness Beck

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, you beautifully show mercy to us, from the beginning of our life to the end, even to eternal life. Give us hope in your power to heal and renew us, individually and as a church. Encouraged by your Spirit, may we respond to your love with generosity. We give our gifts for the renewal of this congregation and our wider community in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sharing Praise to God and Concerns for Prayer

Prayers of the Church and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 378 "Amazing Grace"

Benediction Dr. Anderson

Postlude "Cherubim Song" by Bortniansky Tchaikovsky

Church Calendar

Wednesday, March 13 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor and online
Our **Living into Lent Group** will discuss Chapter 5, "Thanking."

Sunday, March 17 10:00 a.m. in person and via live stream
Worship with the Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Wednesday, March 20 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor and online
Our **Living into Lent Group** will discuss Chapter 6, “Enacting.”

Thursday, March 21 noon – 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Senior Luncheon RSVP to Heather Burnham by Monday, March 18

Friday, March 22 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Pizza and Games Night RSVP by noon on Friday

Sunday, March 24 10:00 a.m. in person and via live stream
Palm Sunday Worship Service with palms

Wednesday, March 27 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor and online
Our **Living into Lent Group** will conclude with Chapter 7, “Gathering at the Cross.”

Friday, March 29 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Good Friday Prayer Service with contemplative music from the ecumenical Taizé Community in the Burgundy region of France.

Union Chapel United Church of Christ

www.fiunionchapel.org

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Designated Term Pastor

Becky Walters, Administrative Assistant

Laura Chapman, Sexton

“Whoever you are and wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here.”



Union Chapel (UCC)

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