

# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

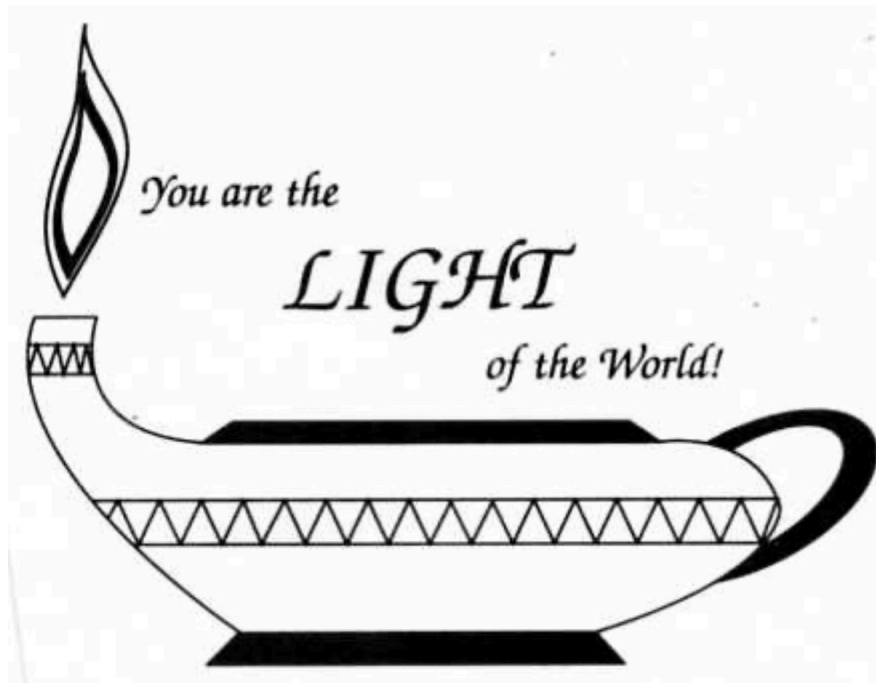
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## Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024



**Worship Leader**

Gina Greene

**Mini Message**

Paul Greene

**Director of Music**

Luke Overton

**Organist**

Hudson Lourenço-Feld

**Guest Preacher**

Rev. Brad Braley

**Office Manager**

Michelle Wolfe

**Custodian**

Kyle Lindaman

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.*

**Prelude** *Panis Angelicus* - César Franck Hudson Lourenço-Feld

**Welcome, Announcements, Joys & Concerns** Gina Greene

**\*Call to Worship** Gina Greene

Leader: God comes among us and within us, inviting us to be salty Christians.

**People: We are each important to the good work God seeks to accomplish with and through us.**

Leader: We are called to be lights in the world and to let our lights shine brightly.

**People: God Expects us to reflect God's love and lead others in Christ's way.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God, and let us unite in praying to God:

**\*Prayer of Invocation** (unison) Gina Greene

Your first word of creation, O God, was "Let there be light" and there was. Jesus came as the light of the world and then called us to become light-bearers in our lives. As we come to worship on this special day called One Great Hour of Sharing, may we shine our light here in this place as well as in the world to which you have called us to live. It can be so easy to get so caught up in our own lives that we forget the simple act of illuminating the world around us with our love, compassion, acts of service, justice and advocacy and kind words to others. Show us the paths where we might follow in the footsteps of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn** *God is Truly with US* #68 (NCH - Black)

**Mini-Message** Paul Greene

**Invitation to Offertory** Gina Greene

**Offertory** Hudson Lourenço-Feld

**\*Doxology** #515 (Pilgrim-Red)

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Gina Greene

**Scripture Lesson** Matthew 5:1-16 Gina Greene

**Message** "Let It Shine!" Rev. Braley

**Hymn** *This Little Light of Mine* #525 (NCH - Black)

**\*Litany** Gina Greene

Leader: "This little light of mine,

**People: I'm gonna let it shine."**

Leader: "Hide it under a bushel?"

**People: "No! I'm gonna let it shine."**

Leader: "You are the light of the world."

**People: "A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."**

Leader: When the opportunity comes,

**People: I will shine.**

Leader: When another is in need,

**People: I will respond.**

Leader: Let's go public.

**People: Light-bearers we are.**

Leader: Generosity is our standard.

**People: Love is our ethic.**

## Communion

### Invitation

### Prayers

**Lord's Prayer** (in unison) Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

### Special Music

*Come Thirsty*

John Mardis

### Blessing and Sharing the Communion

**Prayer** (after distribution) Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen

### \*Hymn

*As We Gather At Your Table*

#332 (NCH - Black)

### \*Benediction

Rev. Braley

Leader: Share the light

**People: like a city on a hill.**

Leader: Shine the light

**People: for the world to see.**

Leader: Be the light

**People: so that our neighbors can find their way.**

Leader: You are the light

**People: and it will not be extinguished.**

Leader: Do not hide your light.

**People: We will share the light.**

Leader: Bringing peace, harmony, unity, compassion, care, and love-shalom.

**People: We leave to share the light and love of Christ everywhere we go.**

### \*Sung Benediction

*Holy One, Now Let Your Servants Go*

(See Page 4)

### Postlude

Improvisation on "The Glory of These Forty Days"

Hudson Lourenço-Feld

\* You are invited to Stand

# Holy One, Now Let Your Servants Go

Simeon's Song, *A Nunc Dimittis*

text and tune: Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

$\text{♩} = 87$

Bm A/C# D G D/F# G D/F#

Ho - ly One, now let your ser - vants go in  
We our - selves, we know the heal - ing you've pre -  
We pro - claim the light to show you to the  
Ho - ly One, now let your ser - vants go in

Asus4 A G A D

peace. Your word has been ful - filled.  
pared, and all the world can see.  
world, for glo - ry, Is - ra - el.  
peace. Your word has been ful - filled.