



# First Congregational

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

608 West Fourth St  
Waterloo IA 50702

www.firstcongucc.org  
phone 319-234-8927



## Third Sunday of Lent



**March 23, 2025**

**Worship Leader**

Kay Leary

**Children's Message**

Brandyn Miller

**Director of Music**

Luke Overton

**Organist**

Hudson Lourenço-Feld

**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** Hymn Improvisation Hudson Lourenço-Feld

**Welcome and Announcements** Brandyn Miller

**\*Call to Worship** Kay Leary

Leader: We are called to run the race of faith with perseverance.

**People: We seek to live with purpose and discipline.**

Leader: Like an athlete training for victory, we strive for a life shaped by Christ.

**People: We turn from what distracts us and set our hearts on God.**

Leader: In this season of Lent, we seek self-control, relying on God's strength.

**People: Let us worship the One who empowers us to run with endurance and faithfulness.**

**\*Opening Hymn** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* #25 (NCH - Black)

**\*Prayer of Confession** (responsive) Brandyn Miller

God of strength and mercy, you have called us to run the race of faith with perseverance, but we confess that we often lose focus. We chase after what is temporary instead of seeking what is eternal. We give in to distraction and temptation instead of practicing discipline. We rely on our own strength instead of depending on your grace.

**Forgive us, Lord. Train our hearts in faithfulness, shape our desires according to your will, and give us the self-control to follow you wholeheartedly. We pray in the name of Jesus, who endured all things for our sake. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon** Brandyn Miller

Leader: Even when we stumble, God's mercy remains. Hear the good news: The One who calls us to faithfulness also gives us the grace to stand firm.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Leader: May God strengthen us to run the race with endurance, keeping our eyes on Christ, the source of our salvation.

**People: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Sung Response** *Kyrie Eleison* (See Screen)

**Invitation to Offertory** Kay Leary

**Offertory** Hymn Improvisation Hudson Lourenço-Feld

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Kay Leary

<b>Special Music</b>	<i>Pie Jesu</i> from <i>Requiem</i> - Gabriel Fauré	Joley Seitz
<b>Children's Message</b>		Brandyn Miller
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	1 Corinthians 9:24-10:13	Kay Leary
	Leader: This is the word of the Lord	
	<b>All: Thanks be to God!</b>	
<b>Message</b>		Brandyn Miller
<b>*Hymn of Response</b>	<i>Lord I Need You</i> - Matt Maher	(See Screen)
<b>Joys &amp; Concerns</b>		Kay Leary
	Leader: Lord, in your mercy	
	<b>People: Hear our prayer</b>	
<b>Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer</b> (unison)		Brandyn Miller
	<b>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.</b>	
<b>*Parting Hymn</b>	<i>O Jesus, I Have Promised</i>	#493 (NCH - Black)
<b>*Benediction</b>		Brandyn Miller
<b>Postlude</b>	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld

\* Please Rise in Body or Spirit

*Sunday School for students up to 6th grade is provided after the Children's Message.  
We welcome your child(ren) to follow our Sunday School leaders to the  
youth director's office at the conclusion of the Children's Message.*