

COME DISCOVER THE
TURNING
POINTS
ON THE
JOURNEY TO
FREEDOM
LENT 2025

March 9 2025

Lent 1

Freedom From Fear: A Turning Point in the Wilderness

Luke 4:1-13

"You don't have to be brave all the time. Just take it one step at a time."

Claudette Colvin

*A teenage civil rights activist who refused to give up her bus seat
nine months before Rosa Parks.*



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
SALEM OREGON
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

***We are an Open and Affirming
and Just Peace Congregation***

***No matter who you are,
Or where you are on your life's journey,***

Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ. Whether you come here every Sunday or are here for the first time, know that you are welcome!

Please take a moment during the **welcome** to sign our **Friendship Pad** at the end of the pew. If you are new, we'd love to get your contact info so we can reach out during the week. Let us know if you would like to get on our mailing list so we can share our weekly newsletter with you.

We Love Kids and Families!

We have created a space in the back of the sanctuary for families and children.

It is a space designed for kids to do quiet activities during worship—art projects, legos, reading, etc.—and we have Busy bags as well to help the “*smallers*” share this time with us. If you sit in the back and find the quiet activities are distracting to you we invite you to sit in the main part of the sanctuary. Help us support our intergenerational community by sitting where you can get your needs met.

Thank you for sharing your time and spirit with us this morning!

When you see an asterisk, () please stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

NCH = New Century Hymnal, Black Hardbound Cover

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We offer the following acknowledgment of the communities of Indigenous People who first lived in the land we call the Willamette Valley. These are the tribes with whom we are walking together even today: the Kalapuya , tribes that include Tualatin (Atfalati), Yamhill (Yamel), Ahantchuyuk (Pudding River), Luckiamute, Santiam, Chepenefa (Mary's River), Chemapho (Muddy Creek), Tsankupi (Calapooia River), Mohawk (Mohawk River, OR; unrelated to the Mohawks of NY), Chafan (near Eugene), Chelamela (Long Tom River), Winefelly (Mohawk, McKenzie and Coast Forks of the Willamette River), and the Yoncalla peoples.

PRELUDES

*Chanson
A Song of Peace*

Young
Powell

WELCOMING ALL

RINGING THE BOWL

CALLING IN THE SPIRIT *An embodied prayer to call us into the Spirit's Presence.*

Unison Refrain: The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.

***SINGING TOGETHER**

God, We Thank You for Our People

NCH 376

PRAYER FOR GOING DEEPER

***SHARING THE PEACE**

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

PRAYERS FOR ALL CREATION

You are invited to share a prayer requests/concerns by using a prayer card that is available in your pew, by using the paper strips that are alongside the prayer tapestry, or by creating a prayer tile in the back. Remember, our prayers are live-streamed so note when names are NOT to be shared.

Prayer Song: *Come and Find a Quiet Center*—vs. 1, by Shirley Erena Murray

**Come and find a quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.**

Breathe and enter into the quiet center of yourself where we will pray for one another and the world.

The Lord's Prayer for the Wilderness Journey

**Loving Creator, whose presence is closer than our breath,
holy is your name.
Let your dream for the world take root among us.
Let your love shape the way we live,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today what we need to sustain the journey.
Free us from the fear of scarcity,
and teach us to share with generosity.
Forgive us when fear drives us to control,
when we harm others in our anxiety.
As we receive your mercy,
help us to extend grace to those who have hurt us.
Lead us away from paths of despair,
from temptations that promise security but leave us empty.
When trials come, hold us steady in your love.
For your presence is our refuge, your kingdom is our hope,
and your love endures beyond fear, now and forever. Amen**

Prayer Song: *Come and Find a Quiet Center*—vs. 3, by Shirley Erena Murray

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our lives and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.**

STORY PAGES FOR KIDS

*Crossing Bok Chitto:
A Choctaw Tale of Friendship & Freedom*, by Tim Tingle

STORY PAGES FOR ADULTS Luke 4:1-13, Romans 10:8b-13

REFLECTION *Freedom From Fear: A Turning Point in the Wilderness*

RESPONDING WITH SONG *Canticle of the Turning* Words: Rory Cooney
Tune: *Star of the County Down*

CELEBRATING THE MEAL OF LOVE

SETTING THE TABLE

UNISON BLESSING

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup, O God. Make them be for us the peace and grace of Christ, that we may be Christ’s body in the world — a people guided by love, seeking justice, and offering hope. May Your Spirit make us one: one in love, one in service, one in the hope we share. Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

GIVING THANKS

GATHERING OUR GIFTS

If you wish to make a financial donation today, you may

- ◆ Text the amount of your donation to **(833) 367-9224**
- ◆ Use the QR code to the right:
- ◆ Give online at www.uccsaalem.org by simply clicking on **Donate** button
- ◆ Or you can always leave a check or cash or mail a check to our physical address: First Congregational Church UCC, 700 Marion Street NE, Salem, OR 97301



Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge and who gives through their bank or other electronic portals.

OFFERTORY *All' Offertorio* Zipoli

***DEDICATION CHORUS** *What Does the Lord Require of Us?* **NCH BACK COVER**

***DEDICATING OUR GIFTS, GIVEN AND RECEIVED**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please read the announcements printed in the bulletin and in the entryway video. If you have something to share that is not in the bulletin, please come to the microphone at the front or raise your hand and someone will bring the microphone to you.

Please remember to fill in your name and contact info in the Friendship Pads.

***SINGING TOGETHER**

When Our Lives are Ruled By Fear

Insert

***BLESSING**

SUNG BENEDICTION

Darkness Cover Me
Sung by the Pick-up Choir

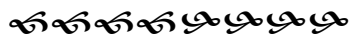
Sarah Thomsen

POSTLUDE

Prelude in Classic Style

Young

During the Postlude, you are invited to leave or remain and quietly listen to the music.



With Thanks to:

Ushers/ Greeters : Roger and Sue Fletcher

Liturgist/Reader: Susan Mankins

Worship on Duty: Judith Taussig

Finance on Duty: Rick O'Grady

Fellowship Hosts:

Special thanks to Rebecca Ralston and the Pick-Up Choir, including Ann Krier on flute, Rick Bingham on guitar, and Cynthia Byrnes on cello

As part of our **Resurrecting Church** process we are embarking on a series of studies that will help us understand who we are, who our neighbors are, and how we might match our deepest passions with the deepest needs of our neighbors. Here is how you can help!

Neighborhood Mapping

So much has changed in our District 2 neighborhood in the last 10 years and we will be do a "Walk About" during Lent to take an inventory of who is in our neighborhood, see how our neighbors are living, and learn about the organizations around us to discover alignments on mission and vision so we can have a better sense of who are mission partners might be. We will need people to help walk around the neighborhood to help collect information.

Neighborhood Survey

As a part of understanding our neighbors better, we need to gather information about who is around us, what their needs are, and what their attitudes about religion and church might be. We will be doing an online survey and will need help getting the word out by delivering door hangers during the Neighborhood Mapping project.

Look for the sign up to help work on this important part of our Resurrecting Church process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

3/10/25 @9:30 AM—Coffee and Conversation w/Pastor Robin at Prismatic Coffee, 3996 Cousteau Dr SE, Salem

@ Noon—Book Group; online

@ 6:30 PM—Christian Ed Team Meeting; online

3/12/25 @ 4:30 PM—Soul Food: Reflections on Lenten Scripture Themes & 5:30—Simple Soup Supper; Talkington Hall

3/14/25 @ 7 PM—Confluence Spring Concert; Sanctuary

3/16/25 @ 1-4 PM—Oregon Interfaith EARTH SUMMIT, IKE BOX

This gathering will have speakers focusing on emergency response to earth quake danger as well as information on community climate resilience. It is sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and will provide an opportunity to meet people from other faith groups in Salem with whom we can collaborate for environmental concerns. It is free. Refreshments and informational handouts will be available there.

3/17/25 @ 5:30P M—Care and Connection Circle Meeting; Conference Room

3/18/25 @6:30 PM—Personnel Team

3/19/25 @ 4:30 PM—Soul Food: Reflections on Lenten Scripture Themes & 5:30—Simple Soup Supper; Talkington Hall

3/20/25 @ 9AM-5 PM—Oregon League of Conservation Voters Lobby Day

The OLCV is holding a “Lobby Day” at our church! There will be training in the morning, lunch and an opportunity for you to speak with state legislators regarding climate issues. More information will be forthcoming.

@6 PM—Worship and Arts Team; Small Conference Room

3/24/25 @ 5 PM—New Member/FCCUCC 101 Classes starting! Join Pastor Robin for a fun 4-part series for anyone interested in learning more about the UCC, First Congregational Salem, and what being a member entails.

March Loose Plate Offerings will go to the **Birthday Party Project** that gives unhoused kids a birthday party.

March 23-30—Family Promise hosting week. There are still a lot of great opportunities to show compassion and encouragement to four families working hard to house their families. Signups are available in narthex after church. See Susan Bearden or Deb Mandeville

PRAYER IN THREE BREATHS

For the World we pray.....

- For the places where war, famine, weather related disasters, and violence are making it impossible for people to simply live, particularly the people of Ukraine, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Myanmar, and Sudan.
- For the planet and all of her inhabitants as we face the loss of biodiversity, ocean acidification, deforestation, rising global temperatures and the impacts of potable water and food.

For Our Community we pray....

- For the people who live below the poverty level as the potential loss of all public assistance looms.
- For the migrant communities around us who live in fear of being targeted by ICE and having their families torn apart.
- For all people whose healthcare is at risk due to the conflicts with Salem Health and various insurers.
- For the people here and around the world standing up for Democracy and human rights.

For Our Beloveds We pray....

- For Kelli for a safe move and continued peace in the new journey.
- With gratitude for Kim's son, John Francis, being seizure free for 18 months.
- Thanks for Deb Mandeville's successful surgery. Continued prayers welcome.
- For Helen's cousin Al as he grieves the sudden death of his wife, Marty.
- For Linda who fell and broke three ribs.
- For Billie, waiting for tests to determine cancer diagnosis.
- Praise and Thanks for Jim's successful surgery.
- For Amy Knowles, that God would lower her pain, and bless her with peace in her healthcare struggles.
- For Steve who is battling cancer.
- For the family of Linda K. as the cancer treatments did not work and she has passed on to be with the angels.
- For Bobbi D who is healing from arm surgery.
- For a friend who will be undergoing radiation and chemotherapy for newly diagnosed cervical cancer.
- For our Trans and queer family members. May they know love and safety.

For Bethel United Church of Christ in White Salmon, WA, and their pastor, Andy Wade

Holy One, we gather all of the names, all of the places, all of the concerns into you and ask that they be held, healed, transformed, and loved into the fullness of their calling as part of your blessed Creation. May we hold them with you in tenderness and grace. In the name of the Christ who shines in you. Amen

Do you have a special need for prayer and support? If you would like to be on our weekly prayer list, please contact the church office: office@uccsalem.org

WE ARE A JUST PEACE AND OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

This church welcomes everyone without regard to race, gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, economic class, marital status, or physical/mental abilities and encourages all to share in the full life and leadership of this congregation.

PASTOR ROBIN'S OFFICE HOURS

- ◆ Monday and Tuesday - 1 PM to 4 PM
- ◆ Thursday - 9 AM to 1 PM
- ◆ Other times by appointment

Want to explore your questions and share something of your journey? Pastor Robin welcomes your calls and visits. You may contact her via cell (971)666-3442, at the church (503-363-3660) or email: pastor@uccsalem.org.

If you prefer to meet outside, she is always up for a walk and talk!

Friday and Saturday are Pastor Robin's Sabbath days.

GET CONNECTED: The **Weekly Word**, our email newsletter which comes out every Thursday will keep you up to date on all that is happening at FCCUCC. Links to the livestreaming worship as well as the bulletin are included. To subscribe, find the link on our webpage www.uccsalem.org, or email the office—office@uccsalem.org. Our phone number is **503-363-3660**

webpage QR



CHURCH STAFF

DESIGNATED TERM PASTOR	Rev. Robin Lunn, ext. 312
SEMINARY INTERN	Amy Tobey
ORGANIST	Dr. Marcia Hauff
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR	Lily Walker, ext. 310
SOUND TECHNICIANS	Zanne D'Anna, Jim Mankins, Kim Colantino, Elijah Gores, Amy Knowles
CUSTODIAN	Joe Martin

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Our Covenant

adopted 2023

We are a community of faith drawn together in our common search for spiritual life. We are a community of covenant rather than creeds. Acknowledging our commitment to the teaching and practices of Jesus of Nazareth, whom some of us call Christ, we believe in the freedom of each individual to pursue their own spiritual journey. Therefore,

We Covenant to be a progressive Christian community that values inclusivity and embraces diversity. We Endeavor to be a congregation of extravagant welcome that respects the spiritual life and journey of each person.

We Listen to the “Still Speaking God” who emboldens us to Seek Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)

Our Open and Affirming Statement

adopted 1993

We are an Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation that welcomes everyone without regard to race, gender identity and expression, citizenship status, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, economic class, marital or educational status, physical or mental abilities, or appearance. We encourage all people to share their talents, gifts, and energy in the liturgy, life, and leadership of our congregation. We affirm that it is our call to work for peace and wholeness by overcoming attitudes and acts of injustice, discrimination, violence, and hatred in ourselves and others.

Our Just Peace Statement

adopted 1991

We are a Just Peace Church. We seek to keep the vision of shalom central to our corporate and individual lives, working to deepen our understanding of the many dimensions of peace and justice in our time. Through our worship, programs, and outreach, we seek to be a community of reconciliation, hope, and courage, as we work and pray for peace and justice in our world.

What Kind of Christians Are We?

By calling ourselves progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who...

1. Believe that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life;
2. Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey;
3. Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to:
Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics,
Believers and agnostics,
People of other faiths and good will.
4. Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe;
5. Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes;
6. Strive for peace and justice among all people;
7. Strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth;
8. Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion, and selfless love

We seek to live out these values, however imperfectly, offering grace freely as we seek to follow Jesus. If our values fit yours, please consider becoming a part of our community.

When Our Lives are Ruled By Fear

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Verses



1. When our lives are ruled by fear and our church-es choked by greed,
2. When our faith e - rodes to facts, and our sto - ries turn to rules,
3. When our fam - i - lies ex - clude and our doc - trines still di - vide,
4. When the road a - head is steep and our cour - age is so small,



when suc - cess be - comes our goal and se - cu - ri - ty our creed:
when the cruel are seen as wisc., and the mer - ci - ful called fools.
when our ta - bles feed the full and the hun - gry starve out - side:
when we stum - ble at the start and are cer - tain we will fall:

Refrain



Let us brave the wil - der - ness, dare to walk where few have trod,



leav - ing safe - ty's eas - y path, risk - ing doubt, and find - ing God.

Text: David Bjorlin, b.1984; © 2020 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: ABERYSTWYTH; Joseph Parry; 1841-1903