

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN  
LONGMEADOW**

*“Striving to be a Church the World Needs Today!”*



**“SACRIFICE & SIGNIFICANCE”**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**March 30, 2025**

☞ *Those who are able, please stand.*

**Prelude** “Improvisation” by Andrew Freeman

**Welcome**

**Spotlight** Prayer Shawl Ministry Ingrid Shuttleworth

☞ **Call to Worship**

Leader: In the east and west, the north and south.

**People: God creates beauty and life.**

Leader: From all corners of the globe.

**People: God calls us to love and to live and to follow.**

Leader: In our homes and our hearts,

People: In this church and in this world.

**People: We sing and serve,**

Leader: We hope and pray.

**People: Let us worship God together!**

**Opening Prayer**

**Sharing the Peace of Christ**

☞ **Hymn:** #195 "The Old Rugged Cross"

New Century Hymnal (Black). RATHBUN

**Blessing of the Baptismal Blankets and Prayer Shawls**

**Scripture:** Matthew 20:20-34 Liturgist, Anne Landry

Leader: God is still speaking.

**People: We are still listening.**

**Children’s Moment:** A Message for All Ages,  
*Children are dismissed to Church School upstairs.*

**Sermon:** “Sacrifice and Significance” Rev. Doug Bixby  
*(HS & MS students are dismissed to the COOP after.)*

**Anthem:** "The Contrite Heart" Kathryn Rose

Chancel Choir

*"The Lord will happiness divine / On contrite hearts bestow / Then tell me, gracious God, is mine / A contrite heart or no? / I hear, but seem to hear in vain / Insensible as steel / If aught is felt, 'tis only pain / To find I cannot feel / Thy saints are comforted, I know / And love Thy house of prayer / I therefore go where others go / But find no comfort there / Oh make this heart rejoice or ache / Decide this doubt for me / And if it be not broken, break / And heal it, if it be."*

**Joys, Concerns, and Pastoral Prayer**


**Lord's Prayer** (debts) 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 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 and the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

**Prayer Response:** "Make Me a Servant" Kelly Willard



Makeme a ser-vant, hum-ble and meek. Lord, let me lift up

7



those who are weak; and may the prayer of my heart always be:

13



Make me a ser - vant, make me a ser - vant

17



Make me a ser - vant to - day \_\_\_\_\_

## **Announcements and Call to Offering**

### **Offertory "A Page's Road Song" Blanche Douglas Byles**

Mark Todd, tenor

*"Jesu, Jesu, if thou wilt make thy peach trees bloom for me, and finge my bridle path both sides with tulips, red and free; if thou wilt make the skies as blue as ours in Sicily, and wake the little leaves that sleep on every bending tree, I promise not to vexen Thee. That thou shouldst make eternally heaven my home; but right contentedly, a singing page I'll be here, in thy springtime, Jesu, Jesu."*

**☞ Doxology:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God for all that love has done: Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen.*

### **☞ Prayer of Dedication**

**☞ Hymn #224 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**  
New Century Hymnal (Black). HAMBURG

### **☞ Benediction**

**☞ Postlude "Improvisation" by Andrew Freeman**

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The Altar Scape for the Lenten Season helps to remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert where he experienced many challenges. It was arranged by Marieke and Doug Burt.

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*Thank you Andrew Freeman for sharing your talents and gifts with us today during Worship.*



### *Easter Plants*

Participate in the First Church tradition of placing Easter plants on the altar on Easter Sunday. Fill out the form below and your sentiments will be included in the bulletin at the services of worship on Easter Sunday, April 20.

**A donation of \$15.00 is requested for each plant, and all forms must be in the church office by Friday, April 9. All plants are delivered to the homebound and nursing home residents.**

**Thank you!**

**2 weeks remain to order!**

### **The First Church of Christ in Longmeadow**

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of or in celebration of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to the First Church of Christ in Longmeadow with Easter Plants in the memo line.

DOCUMENTARY FILM PRESENTATION

# FINDING HOME: STORIES FROM RECENT IMMIGRANTS



**APRIL 6 - 4-6 PM**

**Sinai Temple**

1100 Dickinson St Springfield, MA 01108

*Light dinner and refreshments served*

*This inspiring film chronicles the extraordinary journey of immigrant families as they rebuild their lives and navigate new beginnings in New England. Following the showing of the film, a moderated discussion will take place about the issues raised.*

**This event is free.**

**Because of federal cutbacks, donations to Jewish Family Services are welcome to help their work with immigrants and refugees.**

**Reservations are required and space is limited.**

**Please reserve your place at the table by registering at Finding Home:  
[www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)**

**Or call 413-736-3619 to register.**

Sponsored by  
Sinai Temple Social Action Committee  
First Church Longmeadow Social Justice Team  
Longmeadow DEI Advisory Committee  
LARC (Longmeadow Anti Racism Coalition)



We will have craft tables, an Easter-themed corn hole game, face painting, an Easter egg hunt on the front lawn, and a visit from the Easter bunny.

If you have a craft activity that you'd like to share, you can sign up on the sign-up sheet in Bailey Hall and let Marilyn Paul-Lewis know. We are also looking for candy donations for the Easter egg hunts. We'll be having two hunts this year, one during the Family Fun Day, which is open to the community, and one after the third service on Easter, which will be for our children. Please sign up if you are leading a craft table or donating candy. There will be a box for donations outside the study.

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Stan made these charming little replicas of First Church. Thanks, Stan! If you haven't had a chance to purchase one yet, come see us in Bailey Hall after service. They are for sale for \$10, \$8, and \$6.

We will also have a selection of beautiful spring jewelry for sale. Proceeds will go to the WBS so we can do more good work for our community.

## **TODAY**

Worship, Sanctuary, 10 am  
Coffee after Worship, Bailey Hall  
Confirmation Class, Atwater Room, 11:30 am

## **CHURCH CALENDAR - THIS WEEK**

Thursday – Spirit Speaks, Study, 4:15 pm -5:15 pm

Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room, 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Friday & Saturday, Confirmation Retreat, Silver Lake

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Don Murphy's funeral, Saturday, April 12, 11:00 am  
(Reception to follow in Bailey's Hall)

Palm Sunday, April 13 Service, 10:00 am

Thursday, April 17, Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm

Family Fun Day, Bailey Hall, Saturday, April 19, 1 -3 pm

Easter Sunrise Sunday Service (front steps), April 20, 7 am,

Easter Service, 9:30 am and 11:00 am

Annual Easter Egg Hunt after 11:00 am Worship

*Following the 11:00 am Easter Service, the traditional  
Easter Egg Hunt for the kids will be in the courtyard.*