

**OLD SOUTH CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WINDSOR, VERMONT**

**The Rev. Karen Lipinczyk
Laura Compton
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**Bridge Pastor
Director of Music
Accompanist**

March 11, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome to Old South Church. If you are visiting today, we are glad that you're here. Please take a minute to sign your name and address in the guest book outside the Sanctuary. Our service is responsive; the Worship leader reads what is written in regular print and the Congregation is invited to respond with what is written in **bold**. The "*" indicates that all who are able may stand, but feel free to sit if it is more comfortable. We use two hymnals: *The Chalice Hymnal* (blue) and *The Faith We Sing Hymnal* (black, soft cover). The hymnal is indicated with the hymn selections.

We respectfully ask that all cell phones be turned off during the service as they interfere with our wireless sound system.

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN HISTORIC MOMENT

The 1850s

INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

(Lao Tzu - 6th century bce, ABLF)

If there is to be peace in the world,	there must be peace in the nations.
If there is to be peace in the nations,	there must be peace in the cities.
If there is to be peace in the cities,	there must be peace between neighbors.
If there is to be peace between neighbors,	there must be peace in the home.
If there is to be peace in the home,	there must be peace in the heart.

Holy God, we long for peace. Fill our hearts with the spirit of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who calls us to this high and holy aspiration. May we establish peace in all that we do, in Your name we pray. Amen.

2.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Lectionary Liturgies)

In this place, the community of faith is reminded of the promise:

God's love endures forever!

In spite of our impatient grumbling, despite our attraction to the shadows:

Christ's light shines in us!

When we think our hands our empty, when we have no music in our souls:

the Spirit fills us with glad songs, and creates us for good works!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Lectionary Liturgies)

You reach deep into Your pockets stuffed with mercy and fill our empty souls;

refusing to be in the condemnation business,

You rebuild our shaky foundations with Your everlasting love;

You hear our cries of loneliness and lament,

and reach down to lift us into Your presence.

Good and Generous God, we give You thanks!

You save us by Your grace,

so we may joyfully serve our sisters and brothers;

You slide over to make room for us at Your Table;

You step into our shadowed lives to take us by the hand and lead us

into the light. Healing Word: we give You thanks!

You calm our impatience,

so we may tell of God's presence in our midst;

You silence our grumbling,

to teach us joy's anthems;

You shower us with kindness,

so we may overflow with love.

Spirit of Obedience, we give You thanks.

Good and Generous God, Healing Word, Spirit of Obedience,

we give You thanks for Your steadfast love.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #27**

Come, Thou Almighty King

(Chalice)

3.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

(Lectionary Liturgies)

By nature, we are impatient, irritated, grumbling, disobedient children, always demanding our way. But God, who is good and kind and gentle, comes to transform us, by grace, into the people we are meant to be. Let us open ourselves to the One who overflows with love for us, as we confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Lectionary Liturgies)

The Light of the world has come, Ceaseless Creator, but we admit we love the shadows all around us. For there, we can boast of our achievements, rather than point to Your grace; there, we can grumble of our unhappiness with You, instead of singing Your praises; there, we can give into our natural anger, and not be touched by Your call to be agents of peace and hope. Forgive us, Eternal Love: lead us from the shadows of sin into the light of Your joy; raise us up, as Your children, so we may knell in service to others; shower us with the grace, the hope, the peace You have brought to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & FORGIVENESS

(Lectionary Liturgies)

Let the community of faith say so:

God's love endures forever!

Let those gathered in grace say so:

God's love endures forever!

Let those gathered from all parts of the world say so:

God's love endures forever!

This is the good news for us:

God's love endures forever.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI #35**

(Chalice)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

4.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM ***Follow the Drinkin' Gourd*** (trad. spiritual, sung in 1850)

SIMPLY SPEAKING

(There is Nursery care downstairs for infants and children through Pre-K age.
For older children, there are activity packets at the back of the church – help yourselves!)

PSALM ***Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22*** (Donna Palatucci)
(Page 461 in the Pew Bible)

GOSPEL ***John 3:14-21*** (Donna Palatucci)
(Page 811 in the Pew Bible)

SERMON ***Love the Light***

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN RESPONSE #324** ***Your Words to Me Are Life and Health (*Chalice*)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY ***Were You There?*** (Keveeron)

***DOXOLOGY #46** (*Chalice*)

**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**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Sharing of the Community

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

***HYMN OF PARTING #180 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days** (*Chalice*)

POSTLUDE