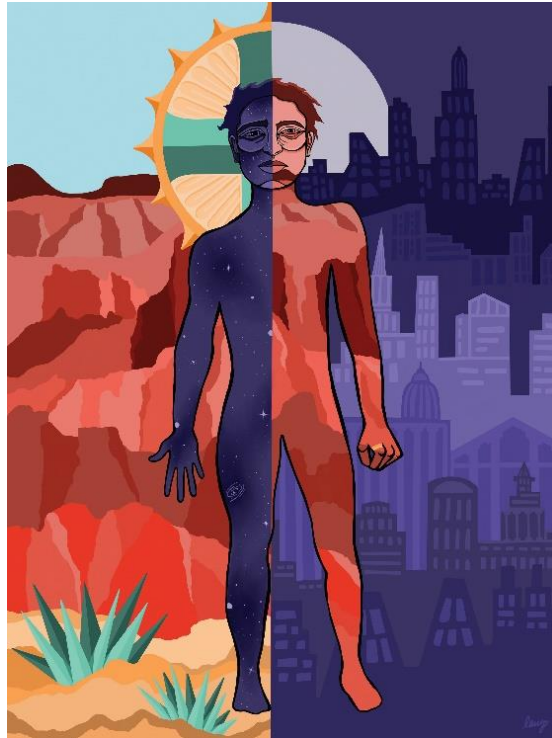


First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Spirit Led is by Lauren Wright Pittman depicting the divinity and humanity of Jesus.
A Sanctified Art LLC/SanctifiedArt.org

March 9th, 2025

Rev. Cindy Maybeck

Guest Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

“O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen.”

— Henri Nouwen

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

Many: Jesus went into the city to heal.

One: Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

Many: Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.

One: Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

Many: but Jesus also went to the wilderness.

One: There is nowhere we can go that God does not walk with us.

Many: We are in God's house. Let us worship Holy God.

***HYMN**

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High (Pilgrim 151, vv. 1-3)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, we worship a God who doesn't keep score and doesn't hold grudges. We worship a God who invites us into a richer faith, a deeper love, a more compassionate way of being with a million chances to try again. So let us speak truth into our lives, asking for God's help where we need it. Let us join together in our responsive prayer of confession.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy God, when we think that expansive life is about power -

Many: Teach us a new way.

One: Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life is about material wealth -

Many: Teach us a new way.

One: Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life is about control -

Many: Teach us a new way.

One: Teach us to live as you live.

Many: Teach us to love as you love.

One: Forgive us when we don't.

Many: Gratefully we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Siblings in Christ, no matter how often we mess up, no matter how far we wander, no matter how lost we feel, God's grace is full to the brim. It overflows in desert places. It finds us where we are and covers us in mercy.

Hear and believe this good news -

God's love is overflowing. We are drenched in mercy. Thanks be to God! Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

My Lord, What A Morning, Traditional Spiritual

arr. Jay Althouse

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-13

MESSAGE

Tempting Power

Rev. Cindy Maybeck

***HYMN**

More Love to You, O Christ (NCH 456)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

All we have is from God. Out of gratitude for a land flowing with milk and honey, we bring our first fruits to be blessed for the outreach of the church.

OFFERTORY

What Wondrous Love Is This

Lani Smith

***DOXOLOGY**

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low. Praise Holy Spirit, Evermore, One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O God, from the abundance entrusted to us, we offer up the best we can give. Guide our use of this precious trust, that it may be spent in ways you choose, and in places where you would send us. May we bear witness to your abiding love, not only with our money but with dedicated lives. Amen.

***HYMN**

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (Pilgrim 153)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Excursion IV

Samuel Barber

First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury (FCCS) is a vibrant, inclusive and compassionate community of worship and mission.

We want our faith to transcend the things that separate us, to be tangible to endure tests of life and time and to be environmentally responsible, protecting God's creation. Led by the Holy Spirit, we look to Jesus Christ to guide us toward companionship, justice, and the inspiration to serve God and our community.

The Senior Minister is Rev. Holly MillerShank
The Acting Associate Minister is Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin
The Guest Minister is Rev. Cindy Maybeck
The Visiting Director of Music is Andrew Lefferts
The Deacon is Dave Russell
The Reader is Rev. Cindy Maybeck
Greeters are Elaine Shaw and Jean Feldkamp
Altar flowers are provided by Marty and Sandi Leroux in loving memory of Marty's parents, George and Yvonne Leroux.

*Liturgy is adapted and used by permission from **Words for Worship for Lent-Easter**, Rev. Sarah Speed, SanctifiedArt.org.*

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

For Kathy and all the friends and family of Dile Holton; Jon Scott's brother, Alan in CA; Christina Hsu and her family; Diane Smith's mother, Anne Thompson, and the Smith family; Doris; Jackie P., her daughter Denise, and family; the family and friends of Kristin Stewich; the family and friends of Florence Stowe; Kim, Sue Phye's daughter-in-law; Stanley; Sharon; Gloria Symonds; Leon Bowman; Frank Trippi; Jean Stuart; Sherry Robertson; Erna Lallier and family; Wendy Driscoll; Jennifer and Rebecca MacKenzie; Cathy; Eileen F.; David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Marcia Smith; Natalie; Peyton; John Heald; Jean Folsom; Roberta Jelinch's sister, Sandi; Jan Smith; Brenda; Barbara Harlow; Lisa DiPilato.

-For those within our church family and all faith communities who are dealing with illness, caregiving, grief, mental health crisis, unemployment, hunger, and homelessness in their daily lives.

-Prayers for all those recovering from natural disasters happening throughout our world.

-For the people of Ukraine, Haiti and the Middle East whose lives continue to be shattered by war, as well as the many landscapes that are currently embroiled in conflicts.

-The mission & works of the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury.

-Blessings to government officials, first responders, health care workers, military personnel, and all who protect and care for us.

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Every day, 7am: AA, Cushing Hall
Every Wednesday, 5:30pm: ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics), Chapel
Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, 3/9:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
11:00am: Appetizer Sunday, Gifford Hall
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room
7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

Monday, 3/10:

7:00pm: Music Committee, Adkins

Tuesday, 3/11:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Youth Room
7:00pm: Budget & Finance, Adkins

Wednesday, 3/12:

11:30am: Can We Talk?, Adkins
6:00pm: Lenten Series, Chapel
6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers

Thursday, 3/13:

7:00pm: CE Ministry, Youth Room
7:15pm: Senior Choir

Friday, 3/14:

4:15pm: Chimers

Saturday, 3/15:

3:00pm: Circle Sing Group, Chapel

Sunday, 3/16:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
11:00am: Families with Young Children, Chapel
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room
5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Cushing Hall

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm