

**March 5, 2023**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**The First Congregational Church of Verona**

**PRELUDE The God of Abraham Praise** **Fernando Ortega**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSMW9TLz6\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSMW9TLz6_0)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Wednesday, March 8, 7pm Lenten Meditation  
Sunday, March 12 – Rev. Valerie Paul-Greenaway  
Sunday, March 12 – Council Meeting after church  
Tuesday, March 14, 2 pm – Memorial Gathering for Carol Leamon  
Meeting ID: 896 1121 1490; Password: 058929  
Sunday, March 19 – Rev. Kirk Johnson  
Sunday, March 26 – Rev. Joy Mounts

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: Peace be with you.

**Unison: And also with you.**

**INTROIT Open Our Hearts** **Jim and Jean Strathdee**  
<https://strathdeemusic.com/OpenHearts.html>

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: In the Lenten season we name every day  
as one that God has made.

**People: Let us respect, reflect and rejoice in this one!**

Leader: Every season is holy in its own way;  
all time is given by God and precious.

**People: But we set aside these days to hear the stories  
and join the journey of sadness and hope.**

Leader: Let us open our minds for God's guidance  
and our hearts for God's change.

**People: Let us celebrate our bodies as a gift,  
and present our souls to be surprised.**

**HYMN – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGAaRtkovZQ>

## **INVOCATION**

Leader: Gentle God, we thank you for this Lenten hour of worship. Deepen our prayer. Teach us to understand ourselves, to be reconciled with one another and to love you with profound joy. Lead us into such simplicity of faith and honesty of spirit that, as individual Christians and as congregation, we may be strengthened in temptation and renewed in grace.

**Amen**

**HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE: Psalm 121**

**GOSPEL READING: John 17: 3-19**

**SERMON – Nic at Night**

**Rev. Maren Tirabassi**

**MEDITATIVE RESPONSE**

## **A TIME OF PRAYER**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Choral Amen

**ANTHEM – Jesus Took The Bread**

**Jim and Jean Strathdee**

<https://strathdeemusic.com/JesusTookBread.html>

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Invitation to Communion**

*(based on Psalm 121)*

Leader: We lift up our eyes to grandma's pantry and the food pantry, to sacristy and IV pole, grocery bag and take-out, looking for what sustains us.

**People: God sustains us with the gifts of earth and sky,  
with parable words to guide our decisions,  
and human helpers to hold our sorrows.**

Leader: God does not sleep through our prayers or slumber when we weep or complain.

**People: And God is our host, giving us a true meal,  
for the hungers of daytime work  
the wanderings of the night,  
even when danger and loss surprises us.**

Leader: We have bread and cup strength when we go out,  
bread and cup comfort when we come in,  
a sacrament of life as real as real as daily food,  
and as holy as the small, sweet gift of Holy Communion.

### **Words of Remembering**

#### **Prayer of Consecration**

**All: O God, you so loved the world that you sent your beloved One, Jesus, into our midst. Jesus so loved the world and saw how hungry we are for hope and love and peace, that Jesus set this table to sustain and save us in the midst of all things. Grateful for all who have told us this story and shared food and Holy Spirit with us, we ask ... Let the Bread of our mouths and the Cup upon which our hearts meditate, be acceptable to you, O God, at this ordinary table and in our lives of redeeming. Amen**

#### **Sharing of the Elements**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Leader: In thanksgiving for this sustenance on our Lenten journey, we claim the story of Jesus Christ as our own, a path of healing and love toward the cross and the ever-present truth of the resurrection. Let us pray ...

**People: Holy One, we come to you with our weariness and hope. We thank you for the rest and strength of this Communion so that we may re-turn our tables to service in the world and hear your words of guidance every day and every night through Christ our Host and Feast. Amen**

**HYMN Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aGWmCan-40>

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE – With the Lord As My Guide          Jim & Jean Strathdee**

<https://strathdeemusic.com/WithGuide.html>