

# First Congregational

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

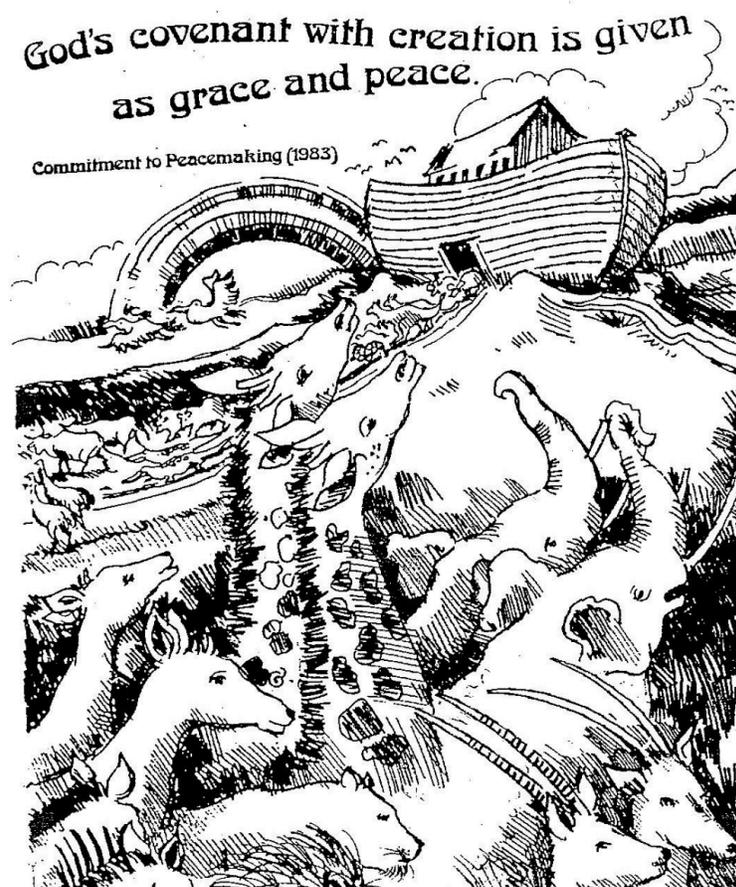
608 West Fourth St  
Waterloo IA 50702

www.firstcongucc.org  
phone 319-234-8927



## Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024



### Worship Leader

Kay Leary

### Mini Message

Kay Leary

### Director of Music

Luke Overton

### Organist

Hudson Lourenço-Feld

**Guest Preacher**  
Rev. Janice Springer

**Office Manager**  
Michelle Wolfe

**Custodian**  
Kyle Lindaman

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.*

**Prelude**

*Song of the Cross* - Arnold Sherman

A Touch of Brass

**Welcome & Announcements**

Kay Leary

**Call to Worship**

Kay Leary

Leader: In the past God made promises to God's people.

**People: God promises steadfast love and gives security.**

Leader: God promises life and gives hope.

**People: God promises love without conditions and gives us guidance for faith and excellence.**

Leader: In gratitude, we worship and remember the life we have from God.

**People: May God accept our praise and our prayers.**

**\*Prayer of Invocation** (unison)

Kay Leary

O God, you have brought us out of darkness into a world of color and light. You have transformed us into your covenant people. Bring us now into the light of your presence. Help us to feel you with us in our worship. Make us sensitive to the warmth of your love and the tenderness of your care. We pray in the power of your Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn**

*God's Rainbow Covenant*

*(Reprinted, with permission, from Whispers of God by Lavon Bayler.  
Copyright 1987 The Pilgrim Press; tune #21 Terra Beata)*

1. God's rainbow covenant is shared with humankind  
That we may know God's promises in heart and soul and mind.  
God's rainbow covenant assures us we can trust  
In God's salvation, freely given, with mercy, kind and just.

2. God's rainbow covenant now calls us to repent  
That we may not be put to shame when truly penitent.  
God's rainbow covenant, says God in steadfast love,  
Remembers not our former sins, but points our thoughts above.

3. God's rainbow covenant is meant to teach God's way  
Of faithfulness and loving care as God transforms each day.  
God's rainbow covenant includes Christ's sacrifice,  
That we may claim new life today: God's offer, without price.

**Joys & Concerns**

Kay Leary

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Brad Braley

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

<b>Mini-Message</b>	<i>Rise and Shine</i> (See Screen)	Kay Leary
<b>Invitation to Offertory</b>		Kay Leary
<b>Offertory</b>	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
<b>*Doxology</b>		#515 (Pilgrim - Red))
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		Kay Leary
<p>O God, your covenant with your people is as old as the rainbow. It is sealed in the waters of our baptism and renewed each time we break the bread and share the cup. With gratitude we commit our gifts and ourselves once again to you and to the work of your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.</p>		
<b>Choral Anthem</b>	<i>Ave Verum Corpus</i> - W.A. Mozart	Chancel Choir
<b>Old Testament Lesson</b>	Genesis 9:8-17	Rev. Braley
<b>New Testament Lesson</b>	1 Peter 3:18-22	Kay Leary
<b>*Hymn</b>	<i>O Love That Will Not Let Me Go</i>	#485 (NCH - Black)
<b>Message</b>	<i>"Somewhere Over the Rainbow"</i>	Rev. Braley
<p>Text: <i>"I am putting my bow in the clouds. It will be the sign of my covenant with the world."</i> - Genesis 9:13</p>		
<b>*Affirmation of Faith</b>		(See Page 4)
<b>*Hymn</b>	<i>In the Midst of New Dimensions</i>	#391 (NCH - Black)
<b>*Benediction</b>		Rev. Braley
<b>*Song Benediction</b>	<i>Holy One, Now Let Your Servants Go</i>	(See Page 4)
<b>Postlude</b>	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld

\* You are invited to Stand

Sunday School for students up to 6th grade is provided after the Mini-Message.

We welcome your child(ren) to follow our Sunday School leaders to the youth director's office at the conclusion of the Mini-Message.

## \*Affirmation of Faith

Leader: God has colored our world with brightness. God has painted our lives with spiritual hues.

**People: Our hearts rejoice at the vibrant greens of creation. Our Spirits sing and are filled with the deep blue of devotion.**

Leader: God-with-us radiates golden bronze sunshine, illuminating dark corners of our lives.

**People: Divine majesty overwhelms us. We are awed as God's royal purple parades before us.**

Leader: The red warmth of love, awakened by the Holy Spirit, strengthens us to be what we could not be on our own.

**People: God breaks through in colors alive with the rainbow of life. God's Spirit splashes around us, over us, and in us.**

Leader: God's Spirit washes away our grayness, giving us new lives of joy and praise.

**People: God gives a covenant of life, surrounding us with a rainbow world.**

Leader: God, help us to see the rainbow sign, the arch of your promise over our lives.

**People: Help us to trust that amid all floods You will guide us safely to the shores of your kingdom.**

**Holy One, Now Let Your Servants Go**  
*Simeon's Song, A Nunc Dimittis*

text and tune: Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

♩ = 67

Bm A/C# D G D/F# G D/F#

Ho - ly One, now let your ser - vants go in  
We our - selves, we know the heal - ing you've pre -  
We pro - claim the light to show you to the  
Ho - ly One, now let your ser - vants go in

Asus4 A G A D

4

peace. Your word has been ful - filled.  
pared, and all the world can see.  
world, for glo - ry, Is - ra - el.  
peace. Your word has been ful - filled.

4