



First United Presbyterian Church of Sodus

March 27, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Reverend Gail Heimberger, Pastor
Douglas Blackall, Organist
Anne L'Hommedieu, Handbell Choir Director
Tracey Fox, Joyful Singers Director*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Meditation: *"One of the hardest things to do is to stop being the Prodigal Son without turning into the Elder Son."* -John Ortberg

Greeting and Announcements *Reverend Gail Heimberger*

Prelude: *"What Wondrous Love Is This"* *HandBell Choir
Anne L'Hommedieu, Handbell Choir Director*

***Hymn:** *"Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing"* *p. 356
Lois Fiegal, Organist*

Lenten Candle Lighting *Marianne Nelson*

Call to Worship:

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.

Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

AMEN!

Prayer of Invocation

Father, it was said of the Prodigal Son that he "came to himself." Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to You. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect so that we might be more fully human. Help us not to chase after an imaginary life, and to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might see that Your arms open in welcome. Amen.

~ written by Ann Siddall, in Lent to Easter liturgies: Year C. Posted on the website of the **Stillpoint Spirituality Centre**. <http://stillpoint.unitingchurchsa.org.au/>

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Parental God, we have failed to see each other as your children. We claim to see each other as brothers and sisters, but we put others down and we puff ourselves up. We think we are more worthy than others, and we judge how others believe and live. Forgive us for not seeing through your eyes, for not serving through your hands, for not walking together with your feet. Call us away from the view of the world,

and instead look to you, and see the beautiful prism of life reflected in Your light. In the name of Christ, who came into this world to become our brother, we pray. Amen. (Time of Silence)

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear this promise of scripture: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" Instead of being bound to his sinful past, the prodigal son found newness in his father's forgiveness. So, too, have we found newness in God's mercy! Friends, I announce to you this day our sins have been forgiven. Amen.

- Stephen Fearing

***Gloria Patri**

p. 579

Children's Time

Adult Choir Anthem:

"Prayer of St. Francis"

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 32

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

2 Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.

3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

6 Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.

7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

9 Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

10 Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.

11 Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Prayer for Illumination:

Let us hear your words of reaffirmation... let us hear how precious we all are in your sight, how you come to protect and reassure us, how you bring us through troubled waters. Let your Spirit be upon us as we remember your call to ministry.

Scripture Reading:

Luke 15:1-32

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. **2** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." **3** Then Jesus told them this parable: **4** "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? **5** And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders **6** and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' **7** I tell you that in the same way there

will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins^a and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? **9** And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’”

10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Parable of the Lost Son

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. **12** The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. **14** After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. **16** He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! **18** I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ **20** So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. **21** “The son said to him,

‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.

24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.

27 ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ **28** “The older brother became angry and refused to go in.

So his father went out and pleaded with him. **29** But he answered his father,

‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. **32** But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon:

“God Comes Running to Us All”

Reverend Gail Heimberger

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory

Call to Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Holy and Gracious God You, the one of prodigal grace We give you thanks for the gift of life and for the blessings of this life, for family and friends and love abundant. Lead us through the trials the suffering and sorrow the challenges and struggles the tired time, despair and bleak places, back to you, and love abundant. Be with those who weep or cannot sleep who have no peace who seek release and comfort them with love abundant. Fill us with hope, sustained in your mercy, with patience and stamina upheld by your Holy Spirit in your prodigal grace. Transform us and all our broken ways transforms us that we can be made whole. And in wholeness may we be the hands and heart of Christ. Amen.

~ written by Terri, and posted on RevGalBlogPals. <http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca/>

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Hymn:

"Grace Alone"

Sing the Faith p.2162

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

*Organ Postlude

COFFEE CHATS ARE BACK!! JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS

Happenings

March 27, 2022

Keep in Prayer: *Bonnie Bolling, Roger and Debbie Gill, Nancy Gulino, Janie Hyland, Anne Martini, Ed and Judy Merkel, Kevin McKeon, Steve Pope, Collen Powers, Maxine Rawden, Jody Rolston, Joyce Small and Pat Yates.*

- *Merril Gray who is in the hospital with multiple issues, pneumonia, low grade sepsis and multiple fractures of L2 in his back.*

Thank you to:

- *Doug and the Choir for their beautiful music.*
- *Anne L'Hommedieu and HandBell Choir for their beautiful music.*
- *Gary and Connie Preston and Mike Mulberry, for continuing to keep our church grounds beautiful.*
- *Jim Hopkins and Roy Pickering for Facebook broadcasting.*
- *Joan Miller and Amy Johnson for the bagged lunches.*
- *Our Communion Servers, Kate and Frank Daratt and Carol and Keith Blackall.*

Ecumenical Prayer Service for Ukraine, Presbyterian Church, 6:00 PM

Sponsored by the Sodus Council of churches. Please join us, as we hold up in prayer our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ.

Bible Study Thursdays 4:00-5:00 pm

Coffee Chat Sign-ups on Hobbie Case

Rummage Sale is On! Date to be Determined!

Take a book, Share a book

Our Little Free Library has been officially registered with the international organization (<https://littlefreelibrary.org/>). The books are located on the shelves in the Yellow Room, which is outside the downstairs Bible Study room. There are books for both children and adults to take. If you would like to donate some especially good books, please feel free to do so by placing them on the desk next to the shelves. If you have a lot of books to pass along, please support the Sodus Community Library by taking your books there for their next book sale.

Yarn Wanted:

Judy Nortier's sister and friend are "mad knitters" and are "knitting up a storm" for our mitten tree. If you have any yarn to donate, please bring in so the ladies can continue their knitting. There are boxes for yarn in the former nursery school classroom that are labeled with the different colors.

Sock Ministry

*The Mission Committee is collecting **NEW SOCKS for CHILDREN** to be donated to Family Promise. They may be deposited in the "sock box" in the entry way.*

Do You Need a Piano to Practice On?

The piano in the downstairs Bible Study room has been cleaned and tuned and needs to be played to stay in good shape, so feel free to play it.

Food Pantry:

We are back to collecting food for the food pantry. Please feel free to bring items to church Peanut Butter, Jelly, canned low sugar fruits, low sodium soups, and other canned goods are extremely helpful. Please put items downstairs on the shelves by the south stairs. Thank you!

Today - Sunday, March 27, 2022

10:00 am: Worship: Fourth Sunday in Lent

11:00 am: Coffee Chat

This Week:

Tuesday: Gail, Zoom, Presbytery Meeting, 1:00 pm,

Wednesday: Bagged Lunches, 11:30 am

Thursday: Bible Study, 4:00-5:00 pm

Sunday, April 3, 2022

10:00 am: Worship: Fifth Sunday of Lent

11:00 am: Coffee Chat

Giving Summary: March 20, 2022

Current - \$1,740.00

Benevolence - \$500.00

Community Dinner - \$54.00

Upcoming Dates:

March 30: Bagged Lunch, 11:30 am

March 31: Bible Study, 4:00-5:00 pm

April 3: Easter Flowers orders are due

Ecumenical Church Service for Peace, 6:00 pm

April 6: Deacons, 9:00 am; Bagged Lunches, 11:30 am

April 7: Bible Study, 4:00-5:00 pm

Book Club at Carol Blackall's, 5:30 pm

Sodus Town Historical Society, here, 6:00-8:00 pm

April 10: Palm Sunday Service, 10:00 am

HandBell Choir playing

Palm Sunday Brunch, 11:00 am (Sign-Up to bring casseroles)

April 11: Youth Group, 11:00 am-1:00 pm; Session, 6:00 pm

April 13: Bagged Lunches, 11:30 am

April 14: Bible Study, 4:00-5:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Agape Dinner, 6:00 pm, here

April 15: Procession of Cross, Noon at Village Parking

Good Friday Services a Methodist Church

April 17: Easter Sunday Service, 10:00 am

HandBell Choir playing

April 20: Community Dinner, 5:00 pm

April 21-29 Gail on Vacation

SAVE THE DATE: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

June 27,28,29, 8:30-11:30