



**PROCLAIMING**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 13: 6-9  
Isaiah 55: 1-5

Nicole Cacozza  
Karen Byrne

\*SERMON HYMN

*Come to Tend God's Garden*

NCH, #586

SERMON

You Have Been My Help

Karen Byrne

**RESPONDING**

SHARING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

*You are welcome - All are welcome - No exceptions! -  
to Christ's Table at First Congregational United Church of Christ.  
We come forward to gather around the table as we sing the communion hymn.  
Front pews are left open for those who would prefer to sit.  
You may place offerings & prayer cards in the plates as you come forward.*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE *(spoken in unison)*

We come to this table  
Not because we must, but because we may;  
Not because we are strong, but because we are weak;  
Not because we have any claim on God's blessing,  
But because we stand in constant need of God's mercy.  
We come not to express an opinion or a doctrine,  
But to seek a Presence and to pray for a Spirit.

\*COMMUNION HYMN

*Jesus is Here Right Now*  
(please see insert)

NCH, #348

\*CHURCH AT PRAYER

Karen Byrne

*Prayers of the People, Pastoral Prayer, Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")*

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

\*SHARING BREAD AND CUP

*(we dip the bread in the cup of grape juice)*

\*COMMUNION PRAYER

Peter Dennebaum

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*  
(please see insert)

NCH, #459

\*BENEDICTION

Karen Byrne

POSTLUDE

*Pastorale*

Christopher Uehlein

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

**A Just Peace, Open and Affirming,  
Multiracial and Multicultural Congregation  
Intentionally Inclusive...Expect the Unexpected**



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March 7, 2010 - Third Sunday in Lent

**Preacher:** Karen Byrne, a member of First Congregational since 2006, has accepted the call of Winslow Congregational UCC in Winslow, Maine, to be their settled pastor. She was approved for ordination by Ecclesiastical Council of the Potomac Association (attended by a dozen First Churchers). Karen lives on Capitol Hill, where she has practiced law for 20 years, and is married to Peter Byrne, also a First Church member.

**Lay Leader:** Nicole Cacoza has been a First Church member since 2006 and has attended the church her whole life along with her family. She has helped to write Christmas pageants with her confirmation class and together they led a service last year.

**Birthdays:**  
March 8 Anne Nelsen  
March 9 Peg Lorenz  
March 10 Harry Knox

**Announcements:** Karen Byrne will be ordained at First Church on Sat. 3.27 at 5:30 and everybody is invited.

#### THIS WEEK

**Today**  
2:00 pm Fellowship Hour Hosts: Priscilla Waters, Bob Dinkelmeyer, Ruth Shinn, Joan King  
2:30 pm Nurture led by Karen Byrne  
2:30-6:30 Confirmation Class. First Hour includes the Nurture

**Monday, March 8**  
6:30 pm Finance Commission

**Tuesday, March 9**  
7:00 pm Social Action & Awareness Commission

**Wednesday, March 10**  
7:00 pm Outreach & Membership Commission

**Thursday, March 11**  
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, March 14**  
12:00 pm Bible Workbench in Fellowship Hall  
1:00 pm Worship Service  
Preaching: Peter Dennebaum  
Worship Leader: Lucille Dickinson  
2:00 pm Fellowship Hour Hosts: Ann Bushmiller, Ellen Bushmiller, Paul Bushmiller, Dwan Reece

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 13: 6-9

#### The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

Then Jesus told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" The gardener replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

Isaiah 55: 1-5

#### An Invitation to Abundant Life

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.



## Easter Lily Order Form

*My (our) name(s)*

*In Honor of*

OR

*In Memory of*

*Number of lilies at \$10 each \_\_\_\_\_*

*Enclose payment - Write a check to: **First Congregational Church***

*Please mark "**Easter Lily**" on the memo line*

*Put check and order form in the offering plate **OR***

*Mail these to the church at 309 E St., NW, Washington, DC 20001*

*Deadline for your lily order to be received: March 21*

*You may also email the necessary information to Marie Rietmann at [mrrietmann@verizon.net](mailto:mrrietmann@verizon.net) and mail your check to the church.*

*Money received beyond the cost of lilies needed*

*Will be added to the Flower Fund*

*We welcome our visitors and your participation in the life of the church. After worship please join us for coffee hour downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Bible Workbench meets in Fellowship Hall from noon until 12:45. Please ask an usher for directions for childcare and Sunday school. On Sundays with Nurtures (our name for Adult Education), please join us for an hour of structured discussion in the room to the left of the sanctuary. If you are interested in singing with the choir, rehearsals are Thursday evenings here at the church from 7:30 to 9:00.*

**Ministers:**  
Peter Dennebaum  
Ron Hopson

**Director of Music:**  
John R. Touchton

**Community Chorus Director:**  
Loretta Uzzelle

**Guest Musician:**  
Stefan Brodd

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