



400 YEARS OF *Faith*
AMERICAN
CONGREGATIONALISM
SINCE 1620

Did you know Calvin Coolidge...

Born John Calvin Coolidge, Jr., our last Congregationalist president, and the only president to be born on the Fourth of July. He was born in Plymouth Notch, Vermont, in 1872.

The presidency came as a surprise to Coolidge. After a busy career in Vermont state politics, he had been elected as Warren G. Harding's vice president. In the wee hours of the morning on August 3, 1923, while he was visiting his father in Vermont, Coolidge learned of the president's death. His father, a notary public, lit a kerosene lamp and administered the oath of office to his son, whose hand was on the family Bible.

Famous as a man of few words, he once heard a young woman tell him she had bet that she could get him to say at least three words. Coolidge simply answered, "You lose."

Summarizing the view of a Congregationalist writer whom he admired, Coolidge wrote about "a standard of righteousness that might does not make right, that the end does not justify the means, and that expediency as a working principle is bound to fail. The only hope of perfecting human relationships is in accordance with the law of service under which men are not so solicitous about what they shall get as they are about what they shall give."

...was a Congregationalist?

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism
Learn more about our Congregational History at naccc.org

Call To Worship

L: We come to worship, celebrating 400 years since the landing of the Pilgrims.

C: They founded a life together based on faith in God and Christ's constant care

L: They dared to rise up and create a country based entirely on leaning on God

C: And so we come week after week, but especially this year thanking God for our life together as God's Pilgrim people.

Invocation (in unison)

Almighty God, who was before all that is, who remains beside us, one who fills our lives with blessings, we celebrate this day the lives of the men and women known as Pilgrims. In Your singularity, they found commonness; in multiplicity of their world, they found diversity; in their chords and discords, they experienced a harmony in life. In their worship, they found strength and courage and hope. So may we worship You, knowing You expect the same from us. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Robert Hellam

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard