



## Did you know Obadiah Holmes...

Congregationalists have not always been open-minded toward others whose beliefs differ from their own. The leaders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony did not appreciate the prospect of a Baptist church in their close community.

Obadiah Holmes was born in England and emigrated to America in 1638. He was a glassmaker by trade and became a member of the Salem Church. Holmes became the leader of a small faction within the church, known as the "Schismatists," and by 1650 he and eight others had separated from the church and were baptized, with Holmes becoming their pastor.

He was later arrested for preaching Baptist doctrine, and was beaten 30 lashes with a three-corded whip in Boston Commons on September 6, 1651. Even the Rev. John Cotton joined in the denunciation, and Rev. John Wilson struck Obadiah when he was supposedly under the protection of the court.

Though the beating was so severe that Obadiah was unable for weeks afterwards to sleep in any other position than on his hands and knees, during the beating itself, he was so filled with divine joy that he told the magistrates, "You have struck me with roses." His punishment occasioned the conversion of Henry Dunster, president of Harvard, to the Baptists, and led to the founding of Boston's first Baptist church.

The year after this punishment, Obadiah became pastor of the Baptist congregation at Newport, and served in that position for 30 years.

## ...was a Congregationalist?

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism  
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# 400 YEARS OF *Faith* AMERICAN CONGREGATIONALISM SINCE 1620

## Call To Worship

L: We are keepers of the Way.

**C: We come, aware of our place as 21<sup>st</sup> Century pilgrims.**

L: May we bring to this worship hour and to our very lives, a commitment to refashion this world for Christ.

**C: May we renew and cherish our life together, as God's free people.**

## Invocation (in unison)

Let Your holy presence be among us, O Lord, in this year of remembrance, that we, being made aware of the conviction and character of those before us, may enter into our inheritance, standing firm in the convictions for which they ventured to this new world freedom. Let our forebears' dedication to freedom and righteousness be their gift to us this day, and all our tomorrows. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Garry Fisher (Adapted from articles by Anneke Helen Stasson and Carol W. Kimball, with thanks to Rev. Rae Munsell, Mohegan Congregational Church.)

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard