

United Church of Christ, Congregational

March 15th, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Image Credit: Ronald Raab, C.S.C. Ronaldraab.com

*We believe that God calls us to love unconditionally, following the example of Jesus Christ. Recognizing that all people are equal in the sight of God, **we seek to be an inclusive and respectful community for persons of every color, age, sexual orientation, gender, ability and economic means.** In our calling to express the love and welcome of Christ, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person, and declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation. We strive to respond to the needs of our town and world with practical deeds of love. We welcome individuals and families of every configuration into the full life and ministry of this church. Join us on our faith journey!*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE Psalmus: Da Jesus an dem Kreuze stund (“When on the Cross the Savior Hung”) – Samuel Scheidt

1. Chorale in the Soprano
2. Chorale in the Tenor
(with 8’ in the pedal)
3. Chorale in the Soprano (on 2 manuals)
4. Chorale in the Soprano (on 2 manuals)
5. Chorale in the Bass
6. Chorale in the Soprano by Half-Steps

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

READING FOR PEACE

An excerpt from the poem, *What They Did Yesterday Afternoon*, by Warsan Shire:

*later that night
i held an atlas in my lap
ran my fingers across the whole world
and whispered
where does it hurt?*

*it answered
everywhere
everywhere
everywhere.*

BOLD indicates congregational participation

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God, sometimes, the days are long, the nights are even longer, and we're so tired. And then You soothe us and bring us to gentle places.

People: You are our shepherd, and we don't need a thing.

Leader: Sometimes, life is moving too fast, and we can't find a moment to breathe. And then You surround us with stillness and bring an even rhythm to our breath.

People: You are our shepherd, and we don't need a thing.

Leader: Sometimes, we're parched, and it seems nothing will quench our thirst, we're famished, and we can't find anything to eat. And then You refresh and fill us.

People: You are our shepherd, and we don't need a thing.

Leader: Sometimes, the valley is dark, and the shadows are heavy and we're afraid. But then we feel Your strength, and we have courage.

People: You are our shepherd, and we don't need a thing.

Leader: We will praise You and dwell with you forever, O God.

Many: You are our shepherd, and we don't need a thing.

OPENING HYMN:

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light *Insert*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sung Response

Rejoice in the Lord always,
again I say rejoice

Rejoice in the Lord always,
again I say rejoice

Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice!

OPENING PRAYER

Jesus Christ,
Today's scripture reminds us that you traveled through towns and villages curing every disease and illness. At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with

the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth. All of us, gathered in our homes, but connected to one another through your love, we ask you to stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

*Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.*

SOLO He Healed the Darkness of My Mind
– David Haas soloist: Debbie Claar

SCRIPTURE John 9: 1-41

SERMON

HYMN:
Not With Naked Eye, Not with Human Sense

MORNING PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer
(including Joys and Concerns)

The Lord's Prayer

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

CELEBRATING OUR GIFTS & OFFERINGS

The Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Chorale Prelude on

O Lamm Gottes unschuldig

(O Sinless Lamb of God)

– Johann Pachelbel

Offertory Response

Take, oh take me as I am.

Summon out what I shall be.

*Set your seal upon my heart,
and live in me.*

Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN: Amazing Grace

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE Chorale Prelude on *Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir* (From the Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee) – Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

* * * * *

2020 Church Goal and Scripture:

Our UCC Burlington church goal for 2020 is to make an intentional effort to support each other along our individual faith journeys. For we know that we each travel a different path, with different obstacles, but nobody travels alone. We journey together, following the calling of our God. We are reminded of this calling in the book of Hebrews, *"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works."* (10:24)

Those people to keep in your prayers:

All our elderly residents!
Joe Stoddard's mom Lillian
Betty Knowles in Rehab, Woody,
their friend Janet Hurley
Roberta Low's friend Doug
Anna Karwan and her family
Joyce Carpenter's Nephew
Bill Beyer's sister Jane Moberg and friend Frank
Claire Simas and grandson
Mark Flecchia's mom Vivian
Kendra Griep's grandfather
Luella Brown
Carol & Ron Downing
Conrad Fong and his Dad
Alan Wright's friend Seth's Dad
Anne Stafford, her son Bill and grandson Zach
Jean Bastos
J. Beyers (Relative of Kate)
Dave Williamson
Rev. Elizabeth King
Jan Blandino
Bobbie Martino
Barbara Garland
Jessy McNeil's brother Mel and sister Grace
Henry Knopp
Dot Drinkwater
Ruth Reddig
Everett Langley's brother George
John Heald's sister Susan & Mom
Jim Mungillo
Tom's co-worker's 22 year old son

All our caregivers, military here and abroad,
our First Responders and Urgent Care workers!

Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education
Joe Stoddard Jr., Director of Music Ministry
Rev. Angela Wells-Bean, Pastor

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Church Vision Statement, adopted February 2017:

*At the UCC Burlington, we cultivate a thriving environment, which empowers us to embody the beloved, diverse community that Jesus modeled for us, proclaiming that **all are welcome, all are loved.** We celebrate our colonial roots as we change, adapt and grow into who God is calling us to be. We respect the sanctity of each person's spiritual journey and we are blessed by the gifts that each person brings to the life of the church. We join together in faithful service and advocacy with the ongoing hope that we can make the world a better, more just, and peaceful place for everyone.*

Marcia Rich donated today's flowers in celebration of the life of her late mother, Ursula "Sue" Rich.

Worship Participation Today

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
Soloist: Debbie Claar
Children: Amelia & Alex Lewis
Filming: Michael Lewis

March 29

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
Soloist: Debbie Claar
Children: Amelia & Alex Lewis
Filming: Michael Lewis

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 25

No True North Pastor Hours
Crafting for a Cause-cancelled
Choir Rehearsal-cancelled

Friday, March 27

April Hilltop Herald articles due!

Sunday, March 29

No Service at UCC - visit us on ZOOM
livestream at 10:30am

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/756975189>

Financial Assistance

If you or your family experience financial struggles as a result of COVID-19, the church is here to help you. We have a Deacons Fund which can be used for emergency financial assistance. Please reach out to Pastor Angela or Deacons Chair, Deb Glancy **debglancy03@gmail.com** if you could use financial support. All requests are kept confidential.

People Helping People

People Helping People has expanded its offerings to the community in light of COVID-19. If you or your family could benefit from receiving food through the food pantry, please contact the food pantry at 781-270-6625 or **burlingtonpantry@gmail.com**. In addition to non-perishable items, they have a wonderful array of fruits and vegetables. They're also offering lunch foods for families with children who normally receive their lunch at school.

Church Member Support

If you are elderly or immunocompromised or don't feel comfortable leaving your home, we have a team of church members who can run errands for you, including doing your food shopping. If this would be helpful for you, please reach out to Bobbie in the church office, or Pastor Angela.

Please continue your church pledges

The church is not insulated from the economic concerns regarding COVID-19. We will inevitably lose a lot of loose offerings because we won't be gathering for worship for so many weeks. That being said, the church still has fixed costs including utilities and salaries. Please continue your weekly or monthly pledges, if you're able. Checks can be mailed to the church or dropped off at the church office. If you're able to make an extra contribution, that would be much appreciated. Thank you so much for helping to sustain our community during this time of uncertainty.

MEDICATION ASSISTANCE

If you are concerned about how you're going to get your medications during this time of social distancing, please contact Cindy Phillips. She can assist you. She can be reached at: 781-552-1034.

EASTER PLANTS FOR APRIL 12

Even if we have worship by ZOOM livestream we would love to show the beauty of Easter with our flowers in the sanctuary!

To order a plant, just let us know how many, **(each plant is \$10)**, who they are in memory/celebration/honor of.

Send payment to the church office.

Ordering deadline is April 5th

WINE TASTING CLASS @ TOTAL WINE OF BURLINGTON

"Tip to Toe-A Tour of Italy"
Saturday, May 2nd 7-9pm
Sunday, May 3rd 2-4pm
(Still planned at this time)

Hors d'oeuvres & Silent Auction

Tickets \$35 per person*
Tickets are limited!
781-272-4547 church office!

*Brenda Cahoon is making an extremely generous donation to the event that will let the total ticket price of \$35 go to the proceeds.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right-eous-ness shine on my path, And
When we have run with pa-tience the race, We



star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther.
shall know the joy of Je - sus.



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The



night and the day are both a - like. The



Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Not with Naked Eye, Not with Human Sense 406

Dan Damon, 1989

John 1:18; 20:26-29

Unison G Em G

1 Not with na - ked eye, not with hu - man sense:
 2 Not a gold - en king, not a might - y queen:
 3 Chil - dren learn of God sit - ting in the grass,
 4 Thom - as saw the Christ break - ing earth's rou - tine;
 5 Not with craft - ed scope, not with crys - tal lens:

C CM7 Am7 D7add9 G

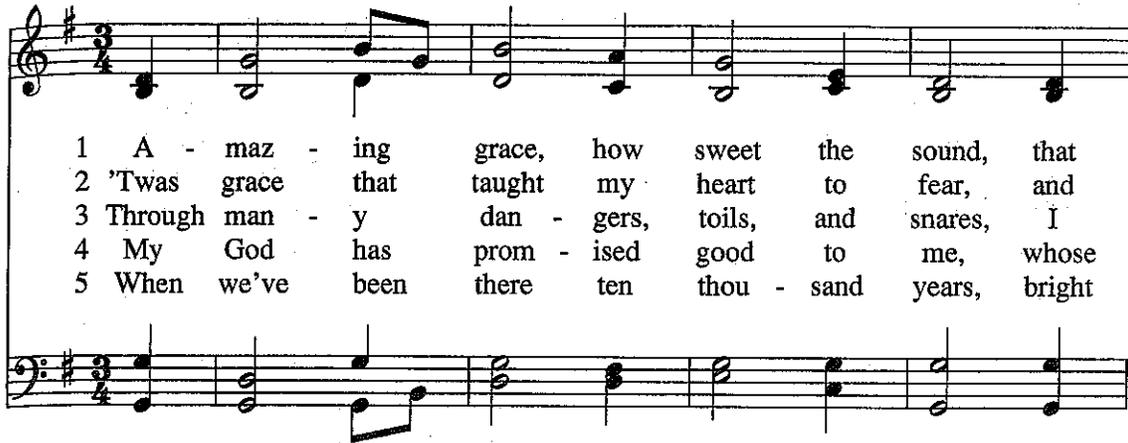
Through the eye of faith ob - serve om - ni - po - tence.
 God's in earth and heaven and all that lies be - tween.
 Touch - ing, tast - ing, smil - ing, hear - ing Je - sus pass.
 Blessed are those who trust the Ho - ly One un - seen.
 Vi - sion of the Christ be - gins where see - ing ends.

Dan Damon commented about this hymn: "People who do not see with their physical eyes learn to rely on other senses. Sometimes faith is one of them." The tune is named for Valerie Stiteler, a United Church of Christ minister.

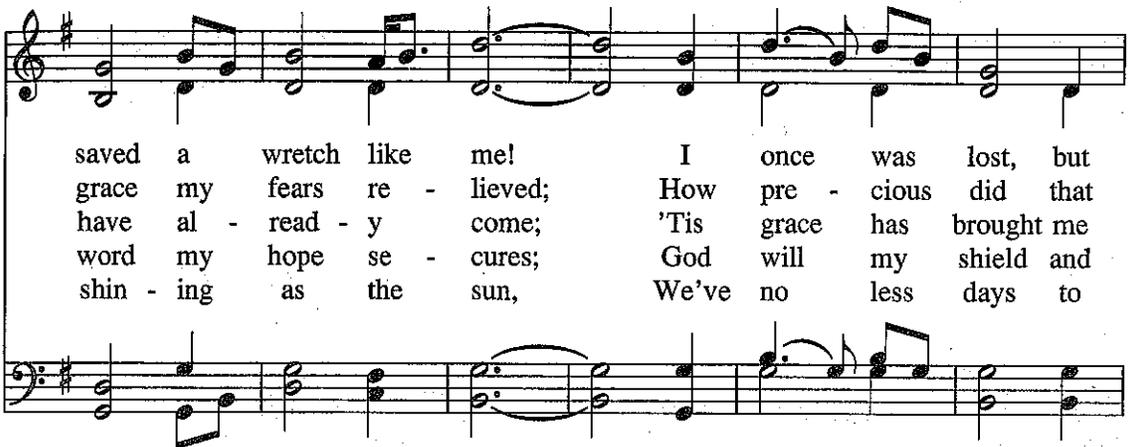
Tune: STITELER 5.5.5.6.
 Dan Damon, 1989

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

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*St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.**St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790.*


1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 (NEW BRITAIN)
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900