

# United Church of Christ, Congregational

Sunday, February 21st, 2021

*First Sunday in Lent*



*I Delight in You* by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Welcome to worship this morning and thank you for joining us!

*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** I Want Jesus to Walk with Me  
– Anna Laura Page

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT** Return to God (verse 1)  
-- Marty Haugen

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God meets us in the night—

**People: Before the sun rises,**

**Before the wound heals,**

**Before there are answers,**

**Before there is closure.**

Leader: God meets us in the light—

**People: Where joy is effervescent,**

**Where laughter is contagious,  
Where flowers bloom from cracks in the  
sidewalk,  
And where people gather around the  
table.**

Leader: God meets us at the threshold—

**People: At the edge of the water,**

**At the beginning of the wilderness,**

**At the start of something new,**

**On the edge of faith.**

Leader: And if God meets us in all those  
places,

Then surely God meets us in between—

**People: Staying with us through the  
wilderness.**

Leader: We are not alone. God is all around.

**People: Let us worship the God of the here and now.**

**OPENING HYMN:**

Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy God,**

**If we are honest, faith often feels like water in our hands.**

**No matter how hard we try to hold onto it, some of it always slips through—**

**Like droplets of truth running down our wrists, back toward our hearts.**

**This human inability to hold onto you leaves us thirsty for more.**

**So as we prepare to worship together, we pray that once again, you would meet us here.**

**Meet us in our hope and our heartache.**

**Meet us in our fear and our joy,**

**Meet us in our cupped hands and clenched fists.**

**And even if the water keeps running, and we do not have a sky-parting moment of clarity, or a tangible sense that you are near; even if we do not hear the words, "This is my beloved," ringing in our ears,**

**we will trust that you are near, always and forever meeting us here, running toward our hearts.**

**Gratefully we pray,**

**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** I Want Jesus to Walk with Me  
– text: spiritual; tune: WALK WITH ME,  
arr. Nolan Williams, Jr.

Mark Omobono, tenor

**SCRIPTURES:** Genesis 9: 8-17  
Mark 1: 9-15

**SERMON**

**HYMN:** Just As I Am

**MORNING PRAYER**

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**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.*

**CELEBRATING OUR GIFTS & OFFERINGS**

**The Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

– Words & Music by Thomas A. Dorsey,  
arr. Phillip Keveren

**Prayer of Dedication**

**LITANY OF TRANSITION**

**Introduction**

Deb Glancy, Deacon

**Transition of Responsibilities**

Deacon: Rev. Angela, you have served our church faithfully and consistently for the past seven and a half years. Now it's time for a temporary pause in your ministry among us, so that you can take time to focus on being a parent. We love you and support you, and we wish you and Andy all the best as you begin your lives as a family of four. We hope you will immerse yourself in the journey of parenthood for the next three months, and

not have to worry about your role and responsibilities as our pastor. So I ask the people of UCC Burlington, do you now release Rev. Angela from her roles and responsibilities as our pastor, until she returns from her leave in June?

**Congregation: We do, with the help of God.**

Deacon: Do you, Rev. Angela, release UCC Burlington from turning to you and relying on you as our pastor?

Angela: I do, with the help of God.

**Congregation: As a family of Christians, we proclaim our love for God and one another. As a church family we send our love with Rev. Angela as she continues the journey of parenthood. We recognize that time and distance will not separate us from love for one another in Christ. We pray, dear God, that you will bless Rev. Angela and this congregation during the weeks ahead, that we may all grow in faith, and be refreshed in body, mind and spirit. We ask this in the name of Christ, who, by the Spirit is in and through us all. May God go before us. May Christ walk beside us. May the Spirit dwell within us - so wherever we go we are bearers of justice and peace. Amen.**

Deacon: We have called Rev. Ginger Bove to serve as our interim pastor during Rev. Angela's parental leave. With this call comes mutual obligation among all parties involved. Thus our congregation and Rev. Ginger will covenant together for ministry in the days ahead. Rev. Ginger, do you accept the responsibilities for worship leadership and pastoral care to which you have been called by this congregation?

Ginger: I do with the help of God. I will faithfully preach and teach and offer Christ's care to this congregation.

Deacon: Congregation, will you offer your support to Rev. Ginger to the best of your abilities as you work together in mutual ministry?

**Congregation: Understanding that we have received the gifts of service from the Holy Spirit, we recommit ourselves to our serving in partnership with Rev. Ginger and this community. As God's servant people, we promise to gather in common worship, minister to all who seek spiritual nurture, and continue to work for God's peace and justice throughout creation. We gladly receive Rev. Ginger Bove as our interim minister, affirming her gifts for ministry and promising to work with her and each other during this in-between time.**

Deacon: Let us Pray...

**Congregation: Open our hearts to your presence, Holy God, that we may give ourselves fully to the covenant of partnership we make this day. Strengthen our resolve to live in community with each other and with Rev. Ginger. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** What Wondrous Love Is This  
- Michael Larkin, based on WONDROUS LOVE from W. Walker's *Southern Harmony*

---

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

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Betty Knowles  
Lynn Tirrell  
Joe Stoddard's Mom, Lillian  
Dave Ireradi's son Dano and Dad  
Pastor Angela's Mom Kim  
Kari Lynch's aunt Evelyn  
Claire Simas and granddaughter Danielle  
Marj Zamanian's son-in-law's friend Brendon  
Barbara Moran  
Sue Wisniewski's Dad  
Rev. David Smith  
Wynelle Scenna  
Scott Carpenter and Joyce Carpenter  
The Blaney's daughter-in-law Carey  
Kelly Sievert's brother, Geoff  
Aimee Tredeau's friend, Mercedes and her kids,  
Malki and Zaire  
Mark Flecchia's mother Vivian  
Barbara Leonard  
Anne Stafford, son Bill and grandson Zach  
Bill Beyer's sister Jane Moberg and friend Frank  
Luella Brown  
Jean Bastos  
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  
All our children who have been so effected by  
this pandemic, with isolation.  
Our First Responders! Our caregivers!  
Urgent Care workers!  
Military here and abroad!  
BE SAFE!

## 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*

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

### February 21 2021 Zoom Worship with Pastor Angela and Interim Pastor Ginger Bove

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean  
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.  
Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani  
Music: Mark Ombono  
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

### February 28 2021 Zoom Worship

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean  
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.  
Lay Leader: Deb Glancy  
Assistant: Marcia Rich  
Music: Debby Claar  
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

**WELCOME THIS MORNING OUR  
INTERIM PASTOR GINGER BOVE!**

## IMPORTANT SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

**TODAY:** Joint service with Pastor Angela and Pastor Ginger (our Interim Pastor who will serve while Angela is on parental leave).

**February 28th:** The Deacons have contingency plans in case Angela goes into labor early. Her sermon will be pre-recorded before this Sunday. If she's with us, this will be Angela's last Sunday before her parental – Michael Larkin, based on WONDROUS LOVE from W. Walker's *Southern Harmony*

### **HATS/SCARVES FOR THE HOMELESS**

Can you make hats or scarves for the homeless who are serviced by the Lowell transitional center or for the homeless veterans? C4C has patterns and yarn if you need them. They will be in a box outside Bobbie's office. Or contact Susan Eby ([mooosie@hotmail.com](mailto:mooosie@hotmail.com)). Thanks for your support of the Missions committee.



### **Are you Zoom Meeting Savvy?**

If you are interested in being a Zoom host, backup or a rotating cohost, please let Deb Glancy know ([debglancy03@gmail.com](mailto:debglancy03@gmail.com)). We'll provide instruction, coaching, and lots of support. We are seeking 5-6 people who would be willing to serve this very important role. Please consider how your skills can support this need.

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

#### **Volunteer your talents during Worship!**

We would love to add to our roster of volunteer musicians! Whether you'd like to share one solo or lead an entire service, please contact Joe Stoddard at [music@uccburlington.org](mailto:music@uccburlington.org) to share your time and talent!

## FOOD DRIVE FOR THE PANTRY

**The Burlington Public Library** is holding a drive-thru food drive to benefit People Helping People's food pantry.

***The drive will be February 20 from 10:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the curbside library tent.***

"In the past, we have held a program that allowed residents to donate food items in order to pay off library fines, Library Director Michael Wick said." Even though the library is now fine free, we hope to keep up the tradition as a way to serve our community."

The pantry is seeking non-perishable, future-dated foods including: one to two-pound bags of jasmine and basmati rice, two-pound bags of sugar and flour, side dishes (quinoa, au gratin potatoes, flavored rice or pasta, etc), healthy snacks, canned tomatoes, pasta sauce, spaghetti, pancake syrup, coffee, tea, cocoa, vegetable oil and jelly.

They also need personal care items like shampoo, toothpaste, tissues and dish soap.

### **ANTI-RACISM**

#### **ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP**

Staying vigilant about racism and the ways were complicit in perpetuating it is very important. All are welcome to join our Anti-Racism Accountability Group as we work together to dismantle personal, interpersonal, systemic and institutional racism.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Sarah Clark will be holding down the fort while Angela is away, so email her at [stredauclark@gmail.com](mailto:stredauclark@gmail.com) and she'd be happy to send you the Zoom link.

# Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

211

*Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.*

*Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13*

1 Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,  
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,  
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion - tide,  
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be past,

Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.  
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.  
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.  
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains the four verses of the hymn. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

*Unflagging in her zeal for religious education of children, Claudia F. I. Hernaman wrote some 150 hymns. This one appeared in her Child's Book of Praise (1873).*

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.  
*Day's The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562*

# Just as I Am

207

Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

John 6:37; Eph. 2:14

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a  
3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,  
4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, And that you called in -  
con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -  
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise  
ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

*This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book, published in England in 1836. Disabled at age thirty, she continued a career of writing and editing. This hymn has been translated into many languages.*

Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.  
William B. Bradbury, 1849

## In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,  
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,  
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,  
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,  
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?  
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?  
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.  
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.  
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

## Refrain

Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er-more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7, with refrain  
 Julian Rush, 1985  
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994