

The United Church of Christ, Congregational  
Burlington, MA

**Fifth Sunday in the Season of Lent**

*"We gather for worship, study, planning and mission to celebrate the life, teachings, death and living presence of Jesus Christ which frees us to love boldly and to serve gladly as God would want us to do."*

March 26, 2023

10:30 A.M.

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*We believe 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, and invite you to join us on our faith journey!*

**Coming...**

**Musical Prelude**

**Meditative Thought**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*"The deep meaning of Christ's cross is that there is no suffering on earth that is not borne by God."*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Introit**

"He healed the darkness of my mind"

***Praising & Learning...***

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Our God is life-giving!

**All: Let us worship our Creator!**

One: Our God is life-redeeming!

**All: Let us worship the God whom Jesus trusted and reflected!**

One: Our God energizes us!

**All: Let us worship God who captures, moves, and sustains our hearts!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

"God of Grace and God of Glory", verses 1-2 & 4-5

#436

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**\*Please rise in body or spirit.**

**\*Opening Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, draw us into your heart as we worship today. Immerse us in your grace, and let us bask in the assurance of your love. Imagining that we have not lived up to your hopes as stewards of creation, focus us on your forgiving nature. And turn us in mind and heart to the sharing of your kind of love. In Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Litany of Assurance**

*The First Letter of John 1:8-9*

One: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**All: Thanks be to God for their divine love!**

**\*Praise Response**

"We Live by Faith and Not by Sight", verse 1

#256

**We live by faith and not by sight; no gracious words we hear  
From Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.**

**Children of God Time & Dedication of The Red Wagon**

**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 sin, as we forgive those who sin against us. & lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, & the power, & the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Praise Response**

"Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain", verse 3

#230

**Now the joyous season, bright with day of splendor,  
With the royal feast of feasts, comes its joys to render;  
Comes to glad Jerusalem who with true affection  
Welcomes unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.**

**Sharing of Sorrows, Joys, & Concerns**

**\*Devotional Hymn**

"Come O Fount of Every Blessing"

#459

***Reflecting & Praying...***

**Scripture Readings**

*Job 2:11-13; 8:1-7 & John 9:1-3 & Luke 13:1-5*

Job's Friend to Job

Narrator: When Job's friends heard of the tragedy he had suffered, they got together and traveled from their homes to comfort and console him. When they saw Job from a distance, they scarcely recognized him. Wailing loudly, they tore their robes and threw dust into the air over their heads to show their grief. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. No one said a word to Job, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words. Then Bildad the Shuhite finally said to Job:

Bildad: How long will you go on like this? You sound like a blustering wind. Does God twist justice? Does the Almighty twist what is right? Your children must have sinned against him so their punishment was well deserved. But if you pray to God and seek the favor of the Almighty, and if you are pure and live with integrity, he will surely rise up and restore your happy home. And though you started with little, you will end with much.



## Jesus to Followers

Narrator: As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Jesus, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus: Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Jesus "when some told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate mingled with sacrifices"

Do you think that because Pilate's soldiers slaughtered some who were worshipping in the temple and mixed their blood with their sacrificial offerings that they were worse sinners than other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those 18 who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.

**Our Sermon      21<sup>st</sup> Century Stewardship: It's About More Than Money...**

Rev. Ed Koonz

"Responding to Suffering"

**Solo**

"Higher Ground"

Debbie Claar

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Prayer Response**(seated)      "Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us", verse 1

#252

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care;  
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your folds prepare:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, you have loved us, yours are we;  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, you have loved us, yours are we;**

## **Committing...**

**Stewardship Invitation**

**Offertory**

**\*Lenten Doxology**      "Listen to Your Savior Call", verse 1

#250

**Listen to your Savior call, "Do you love me most of all?"  
Jesus speaks, and speaks to you: "Love me as I first loved you."**

**\*Prayer of Dedication & Consecration**

**\*Meditative Interlude**

## **Going...**

**\*Commissioning**

One: Let us depart, more attuned to God's grace-filled love.

**All: Let us be committed to receiving this love.**

One: And, let us go, sharing this divine love.

**All: May our expressions of love be sensitive and clear!**

**\*Closing Hymn**

"What a Covenant"

NCH #471

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

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Rev. Ed Koonz, Interim Pastor  
Brian Gionet, Director of Music Ministries  
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education  
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant  
Uccburlington.org  
781-272-4547

## Joys and Concerns

Barbara Moran-hospitalized-extra prayers!  
Rachel McNeil acceptance to Simmonds College  
Nurse Practitioner Program for Sep 2023  
John Heald - passing of his mother Gladys  
Debbie Claar upcoming surgery  
Jessy McNeil's sister Grace  
Jan Blandino's grandson Toby major surgery!  
Also Jan's daughter Brenda/son-in-law Rick  
Kelly Sievert-moved to Rehab  
Marilyn Langley and her brother Bill and  
his wife Mary Anne  
Deb Glancy's friend Pat  
Lucy Damiani's sister-in-law Janice  
Anne Stafford, and her son Bill  
Alan Wright's cousin Tim and  
friend Jimmy's Dad  
Joyce Carpenter, brother Bob  
and niece Cindy  
Ginger Mungillo's daughter Cindy  
and son Jim  
Jean Williamson  
Joe Stoddard's Mom Lillian  
and sister-in-law Joy  
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn Larsen  
Sally Mansfield's son Mark  
Claire Simas  
Luella Brown  
Rev. Elizabeth King  
Barbara Garland

Stop Gun Violence  
Save Mother Earth  
People of Ukraine  
People of Turkey and Syria!

First Responders, Caregivers,  
Urgent Care Workers  
Military here and abroad

### MAUNDY THURSDAY READERS!

We are in need of READERS for our Maundy Thursday Service. Worship is on Thursday, April 6 at 7pm. Please contact Pastor Ed or Bobbie or see the signup link. Thank you!

## 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.

### March 26 Worship-Red Wagon

#### Sunday School

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Interim Pastor: | Rev. Ed Koonz         |
| Organist:       | Brian Gionet          |
| Lay Leader:     | Debbie Claar          |
| Head Usher:     | Deb Glancy            |
| Usher:          | Woody Knowles         |
| Greeter:        | Cindy Philips         |
| Flowers:        | Marcia Rich           |
| Collector:      | Deb Raymond           |
| Nursery:        | Donna & Mark Flecchia |
| Sunday School:  | Deb Raymond           |
| Coffee Hour:    | Chris Stahlinski      |

### April 2 PALM SUNDAY Worship at 10:15am\*

#### Communion-Sunday School

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Interim Pastor: | Rev. Ed Koonz    |
| Organist:       | Brian Gionet     |
| Lay Leader:     | Chris Stahlinski |
| Head Usher:     | Dave McNeil      |
| Greeter:        | Deb Glancy       |
| Flowers:        | Claire Simas     |
| Collector:      | Joan Zink        |
| Nursery:        |                  |
| Sunday School:  | Deb Raymond      |
| Coffee Hour:    |                  |

\*Join us a little earlier on Palm Sunday to pick up your palms and prepare for worship.

## UPCOMING THIS WEEK

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Today    | Worship-Red Wagon<br>Sunday School<br>Cookie Coffee Hour<br>Gift Card Deadline |
| March 29 | Choir 7pm  |
| March 30 | C4C 1pm  |
| April 1  | Charcuterie Board Class 2-5pm  |
| April 2  | PALM SUNDAY<br>Communion Worship 10:15am*                                      |

\*Gather a little earlier/Palms will be available!



Join us for a simple meal of soup at 6:15pm prior to worship at 7pm.

There is sign up sheet at coffee if you will be joining us for the meal, we need a head count.

Worship will begin at 7pm in the sanctuary. Just a reminder this is a solemn service not meant for young children. We will have communion and candles.



### ***TODAY is the last day to order gifts cards.***

You will receive your cards the first week of April. Great gift for yourself or give them as gifts for Passover, Easter, Eid Al-Fitr, Earth Day or Mother's Day!

**Forms are at coffee hour.** A reminder, this is such an easy way to raise money for the church at no cost to you. You get your gift cards at full value and they donate a percent to our church Win! Win!

## **FLOWERS FOR OUR EASTER SERVICES**



If you would like to donate flowers for our Easter Services, plants are \$10 each. ***Please see the order form at coffee hour*** or you can contact the office and leave the following information:

- How many plants
- In memory/celebration/honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- Would you like to take your plant after our Easter Service or donate it to someone who may need a little cheering up.

Make your payment out to: UCC and add Easter Plant on the memo line.

Deadline for ordering is April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **CHARCUTERIE BOARD CLASS AT OUR CHURCH ON APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2-5PM**

In this interactive class, you will learn the art of selecting ingredients and preparing a beautiful, delectable charcuterie board. Cara Cutaia, owner of *Caras' Creative Charcuterie*, will share her knowledge, assisting each person in building their own charcuterie board. ***Each attendee will leave class with their own custom board to enjoy at home!***

### **Class Details:**

\$60 per person  
Saturday, April 1st 2-5pm  
United Church of Christ Burlington  
6 Lexington Street, Burlington, MA

To register, call the church office at 781-272-4547 or email: [uccburlington@gmail.com](mailto:uccburlington@gmail.com)

If you would like to attend but are unable to pay full price, please send a confidential email to Julie at [jalewis@gmail.com](mailto:jalewis@gmail.com). Some scholarships are available.



## HOLY WEEK



### PALM SUNDAY

April 2 at 10:15am

Communion and Palms for this service leading up to Easter Sunday.



### MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 6 at 7pm

Join us for this solemn worship service with Communion and candles. Not recommended for young children.

We will have a simple meal of soup at 6:15pm before the service at 7pm.



### GOOD FRIDAY

April 7 noon-3pm

All are welcome to drop in for quiet meditation, live music, and scripture readings.



### EASTER SUNRISE

April 9 at 6:30am

Join us outside on the lawn by the basketball court at Simmonds Park. Coffee and donuts to follow.



### EASTER EGG HUNT

April 9 at 9:45am

Join us for our Easter Egg Hunt provided by Christian Education.



### EASTER FESTIVAL WORSHIP

April 9 at 10:30am

**Music - Cross decorating begins @ 10:15am  
Worship Service begins @10:30am.**

Join us from 10:15-10:30am as we decorate our beautiful floral cross and listen to music from Brian Gionet and guest musicians. At 10:30am our service will begin.

## God of Grace and God of Glory

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*Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.*

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

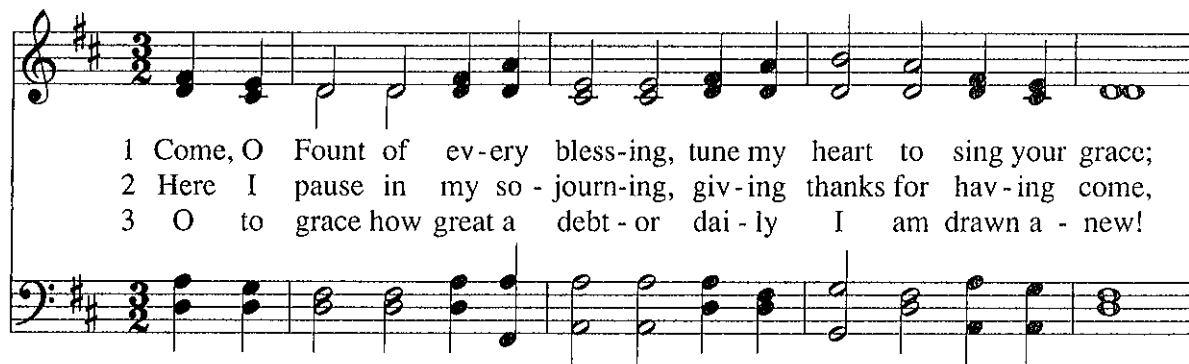
*Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.*

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.  
 John Hughes, c. 1907

## Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

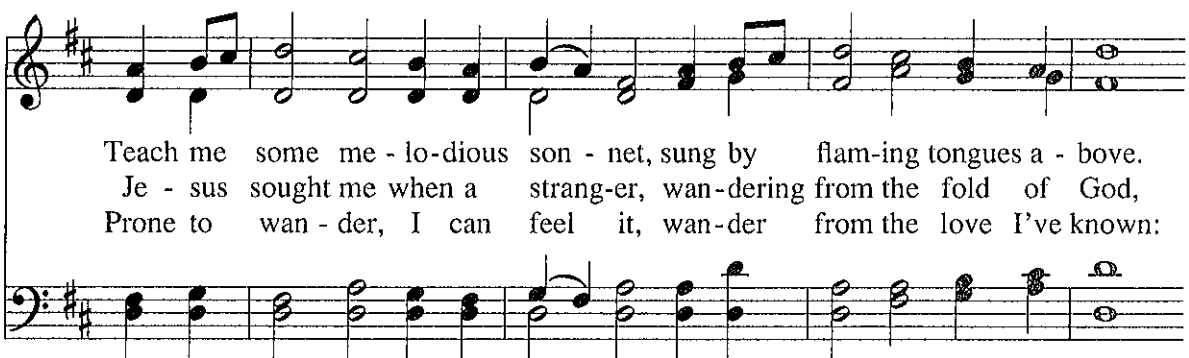
Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.



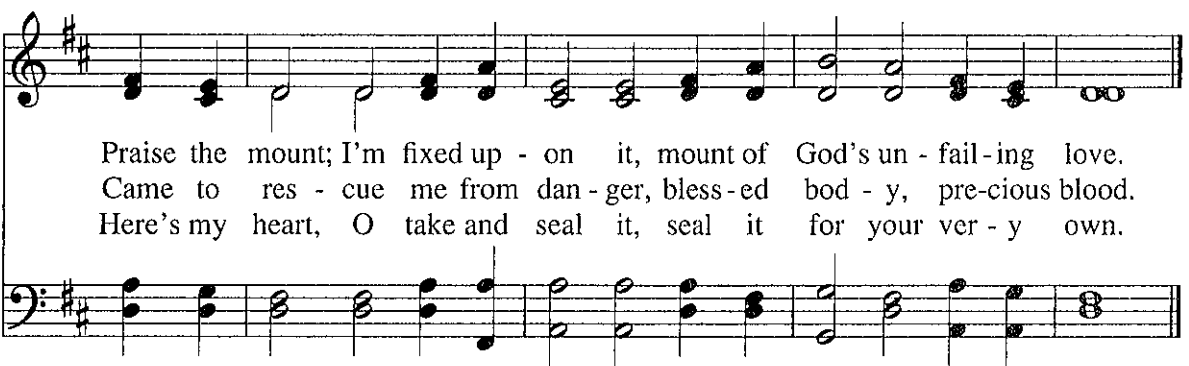
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,  
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.  
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.  
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.  
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,  
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.  
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

*Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.*

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.  
John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813



Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a \*cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

*Refrain*

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

\*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted  
 Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms."  
 Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to  
 E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain  
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887