

Wilbraham United Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
and the United Methodist Church*

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Wilbraham United Church
"I am the vine, you are the branches."

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March 15, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00A.M

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lauren Smith

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: The Lord is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Leader: O come, let us worship and listen for God's voice.

People: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

GATHERING HYMN

How Great Thou Art

77 (red hymnal)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Almighty God, you call us to come and drink, but we refuse the cup you offer. You call us to strike the rocks of our world and let your Living Water flow, but we do not trust that it will break forth. You call us to share the Water of Life with the world, but we doubt there will be enough to share. Forgive us. Cleanse us. Wash us in your grace. Help us to know your spirit and truth are poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray:

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus says, “Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of living water.” We may all drink from the cup of forgiveness, which is extended to us whenever we are thirsty to receive it. The ever-flowing stream of God’s love cannot be dammed or diverted from our hearts. This is the Good News: the cup of salvation has been poured for us.

PSALTER

Psalm 95

page 814-815 *(red hymnal)*

****SONG OF PRAISE**

#482 *(red hymnal)*

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.*

****PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TORAH READING

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?’ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’ So Moses cried out to the Lord, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, ‘Is the Lord among us or not?’

GOSPEL

John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.’

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.’

One: Our God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Pastor Chip

**HYMN *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* stanzas 1 – 3 # 500 (red hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Sung Response

Listen to our prayer, Lord; Hear our humble plea.

O give us peace, o give us peace. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

El Shaddai

Thompson

**Doxology

*Praise God, Creator of the earth;
Praise God made flesh with Jesus’ birth;
Praise God within each living soul;
Praise God in whom we are made whole.*

**Prayer of Dedication

****PARTING HYMN** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* #127 (red hymnal)

****BENEDICTION**

****SUNG RESPONSE** *Fourfold Amen* Hoffmann

FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

****** All who are able to stand, may do so.

The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in memory of Loved Ones from Ross and Ruth Karlson.

Welcome Visitors! Is this your first visit to United Church? Please sign our Guest Pad located in the Narthex. Immediately after the service, we invite you to continue down the central hallway and join us for Fellowship and Refreshment in our Fellowship Hall.

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Senior Pastor/Preacher: The Rev. Wallace A Hurd IV

Associate Pastor: The Rev. Paul B. Nesbit

Director of Music Ministries: Mark Jacobson

Head Usher: Paul Krawczynski

Ushers: Ralph Ridgeway, Sherrie Ridgeway, Jim Trimble and Herb Vieira

Greeters: Jane Godfrey

Nursery Care: Kim Driscoll and Sandra Harris

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF BEFORE THE SERVICE.

FIRST 6 PEWS, DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT, ARE A "SCENT FREE ZONE"

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE FOLLOW USHER'S DIRECTIONS TO EXIT THE SANCTUARY

Please Pray For:



Stephen Neiderfringer, Jim Trimble, The Munn family, The Bernardin Family, Terry Nelson, Fred Sallade, Terry, Darcey, Jane Godfrey, Shey McAbee, Sharon McAbee, Nancy Schenk, Pam Burch, Patti Keiser, Sue Pereira, Natalie True, Bev Sawyer, Kathie Birkhaeuser, Helene Pickett and Family. The victims of violence and their families in our country.

Our troops, our country and our world.



“News for the Pews” for the Week of March 15, 2020

Church Without Walls – Following today’s service, Wilbraham United Church will be participating in Church Without Walls at Court Square in Springfield. Pastor Chip will co-lead the worship service. Following that service, there is a time for fellowship and food. If you would like to attend, help distribute food, or have questions, please see Pastor Chip.

Family Night of Community Service will be rescheduled to late April.

One Great Hour of Sharing: The Wilbraham United Church Outreach Commission invites you to participate in the United Church of Christ One Great Hour of Sharing on *Sundays March 22nd and March 29th*. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help make this world look more like the world God imagines, a world where all are fed, everyone has access to clean water, and all children grow up healthy. Funds collected from this Lenten offering are used for food and nutritional needs around the globe, for families living in extreme poverty by emphasizing international sustainable development, and for disaster ministries. Envelopes will be available in the pews and from the ushers on *3/22 and 3/29*. You can also go to www.ucc.org for more information.

Adult Discussion Group will meet each Wednesday in Lent at 7:00 PM in the Zeckhausen Room. Pastor Chip will be leading and facilitating group discussion with the intention to deepen our faith, sharpen our discernment, and share our love. Please consider attending!

Easter lily and daffodil order forms are available in the Narthex or on the website. Please return forms to the Church office by 4/1/20. Please feel free to leave it in the Admin mailbox or offering plate.

Brian Lapis will be at our Fellowship hour to show a Silver Lake Camp video and answer any questions you may have. Please see the information sheet in the Narthex. Welcome Back Brian!

Thank you - Words do not begin to convey my gratitude to all involved for the absolutely beautiful service and reception for the ordination and installation last Sunday. The music, readings, flowers, decorations, prayers, food, desserts, set-up; numerous people from all over commented on the spirit of love the permeated the entire day here at WUC. We certainly epitomized the phrase “Extravagant Welcome” to all who joined us. With love, Paul

- To find the most up to date schedule throughout the week**
- 1. go to our church’s website: www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org**
 - 2. click on “EVENTS”**

3/15/20

10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Fellowship
12 p.m. Church Without Walls
1 p.m. WUP-FH
6 p.m. Al-Anon – YR
6 p.m. Drumming

3/16/20

10:30 a.m. Yoga w/ Michelle – YR

3/17/20

7 p.m. WUP- FH

3/18/20

3:30 Girl Scouts-HR
4:15 Girl Scouts – CR
6 p.m. Al-Anon – YR
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts – CR
7 p.m. Adult Discussion Group – ZR

3/19/20

11 a.m. Loaves and Fishes
6:30 p.m. Al-Anon- YR
7 p.m. – Bell Choir
7:45 p.m. - Choir

3/20/20

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thrift Shop
10 a.m. Springfield Garden Club

3/21/20

9 a.m.-1 p.m. – WUP - FH
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thrift Shop
10 a.m. Junior Choir

Coronavirus and the Church

As new cases of the coronavirus (CoVid-19) are reported in the United States and around the world, the church is called to education, caution and common sense. Here are a few basic guidelines for congregations. Good hygiene helps prevent the spread not only of coronavirus but also of colds and flu!

- Members, ministers, ushers - wash your hands frequently – with soap and water and for at least 20 seconds.
- Sneeze or cough into the crook of your elbow or a tissue, not your hand. Wash immediately after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your mouth, nose and eyes, with unwashed hands.
- Regularly disinfect surfaces frequently touched including keyboards, desktops, elevator buttons and door knobs.
- Use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid close contact with someone who is sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Feel free to “bump elbows” or bow to fellow congregants during passing of the peace instead of hugging or shaking hands.

Coronavirus (CoVid-19) is a respiratory illness that causes flu-like symptoms including fever, vomiting and difficulty breathing.

- If you have any of these symptoms, seek medical advice.
- Call ahead before you go to a doctor’s office or emergency room. Tell them about any recent travel and your symptoms.
- Stay home. Do not travel while sick. Avoid contact with others.
- Ask to join meetings via video or telephone conference call while you are recovering. Join worship via livestream.

As the faith community, we have a special responsibility to care for our fellow congregants and communities. When we are prepared, we are in a better position to help others. Get the facts and restate them accurately. Check in frequently with our fellow congregants. And counter scapegoating, which has already been shown toward some Chinese and Chinese-Americans. They are not to blame for the coronavirus!

How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won-der
 2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der,
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing,
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion

con-sid-er all the worlds thy hands have made,
 and hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the trees;
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.

I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing thun-der,
 when I look down from heav'nly mount-ain gran-deur,
 that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly bear-ing,
 Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion,

thy power through-out the uni-verse dis-played,
 and hear the brook, and feel the gen-tle breeze;
 he blest and died to take a-way my sin;
 and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou art!

*Author's original words are "wonder" and "mighty."
 WORDS: Stuart K. Hine, 1953
 MUSIC: Stuart K. Hine, 1953
 © 1981, renewed 1981 Marzani Music, Inc.

HOW GREAT THOU ART
 1st. with Refrain

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God to thee;
 how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my
 soul, my Sav-ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

Heleluyan

He-le-lu-yan, he-le-lu-yan; he-le, he-le-lu-yan;
 he-le-lu-yan, he-le-lu-yan; he-le, he-le-lu-yan.

WORDS: Tsal Muzogge (Creed) Indian
 MUSIC: Tsal Muzogge (Creed) Indian; transcription by Charles H. Webb
 Transcription © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

HELELUVAN
 1st.

500 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

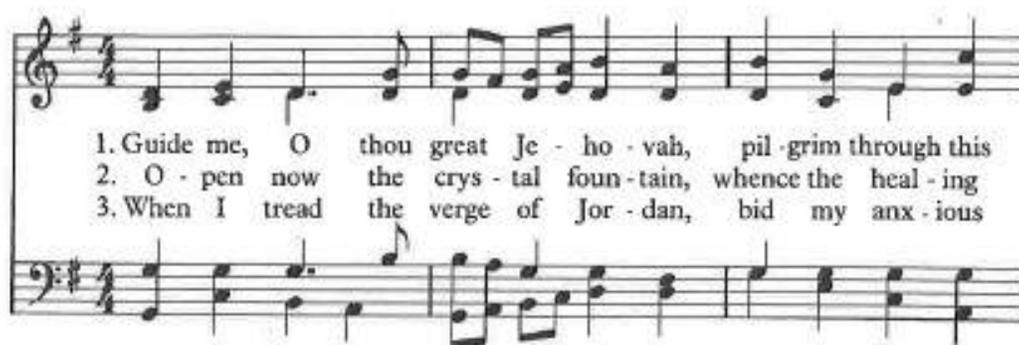
1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3. Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King?
 4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
 5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear.
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

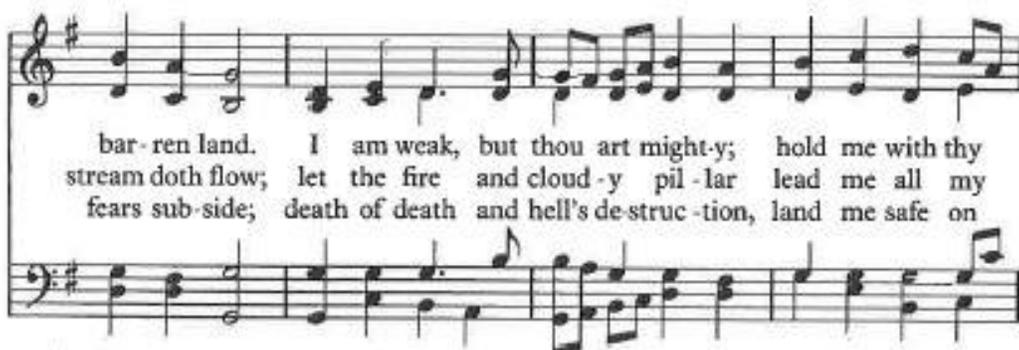
stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh,
 the kin - dling of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

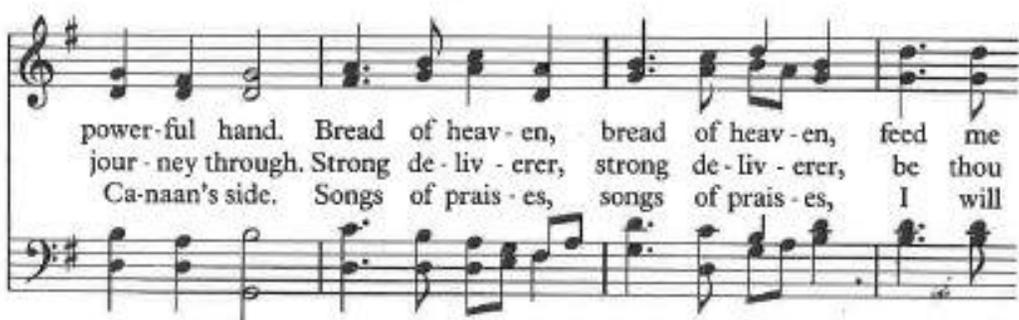
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 127



1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on



power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en, feed me
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer, be thou
 Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will



till I want no more; (want no more) feed me till I want no more.
 still my strength and shield; (strength and shield) be thou still my strength and shield.
 ev - er give to thee; (give to thee) I will ev - er give to thee.

WORDS: William Williams, 1745; trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and
 the author, 1771
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 87.87.87



Easter is April 12, 2020

Easter Memorial Plants Order Form

Easter Lily _____ **\$16.00**

Daffodils _____ **\$14.00**

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

I will pick up after the Easter Service _____

Please deliver to a special person _____

Payment enclosed: _____

****Please return this form to the Church office by 4/1/20**