

# Wilbraham United Church

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

**500 Main Street Wilbraham MA 01095**

Phone: (413)596-2511 Fax: (413)596-2512

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

Email: [admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

Website: [www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch](https://facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch)

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## GATHERING MUSIC

## WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Theresa Munn**

Leader: God knows our weaknesses, and gives us strength.

**People: God's Word is alive and active in our hearts!**

Leader: In Christ, God walked among us, and faced our trials without sinning.

**People: Let us worship the God of mercy and grace, who loves and forgives!**

## \*GATHERING HYMN #92

*For the Beauty of the Earth, v 1, 4 & 6*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, we look for you in the wrong places. We put our trust in material things. We worry about things we cannot change. We wonder if you are even there at all. For all the times we have doubted you, Lord, forgive us. For all the ways we have neglected your word and ignored your people, forgive us. Do not be far from us, Lord. There is no one else we can turn to for help. Renew our fickle hearts and help us put our trust in you. Hear us as we pray in Christ's name:

*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

## RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Psalm 90:12-17

Leader: Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

**People: Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!**

Leader: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**People: Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.**

Leader: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

**People: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands!**

## \*SONG OF PRAISE

2026      Halle, Halle, Halleluja



## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.**

People: And also with you.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Maeve Catherine Hurd*

Welcome

Leader: They were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them:

**People: “Let the children come to me, do not stop them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

Address

Questions to the Parents

Question to the Congregation

Leader: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

**All: We promise our love, support, and care.**

Blessing the Water and the Act of Baptism

Prayer for the Baptized

**All: Give to this child strength for life’s journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

## **TORAH READING**

**Hebrew 4:12-16**

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## **GOSPEL**

**Mark 10:2-16**

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

One: Our God is still speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Chip**

**\*HYMN #611**

*Child Of Blessing, Child of Promise, v 1,3 & 4*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastoral Prayer

**Sung Response**

*Breath of God, Breath of Peace, Breath of love, Breath of life,  
Breath of justice, Breath of passion,  
Breath creating, Breath of healing, Breath of singing, Breath of praying,  
Come upon us, come restore us, come inspire us, Breath of God.*

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

Invitation to Give

**\*Doxology** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God the source of all our gifts. Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!*

*Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**\*PARTING HYMN #2137 (FWS)** *Would I have Answered When You Called, v1 & 4*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Chip**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Go now in peace, Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere,  
everywhere you may go.*

**FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

**MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH**

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

***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:** The Rev. Wallace A Hurd IV

**Associate Pastor:** The Rev. Paul Nesbit

**Director of Music Ministries:** Mark Jacobson

**Technical and Artistic Director:** Deb Trimble

**Ushers:** Tom Toman

**Greeters:** Candy Dearborn



***Please Pray For:*** The Labine family, Alice Belsky, Audrey Hunt, Helene Pickett, Bill and Ellen and the Gatchell family, Tim and family, Theresa Munn, Herb Vieira, Kathy and family, Betty Sallade, Daniel, Catherine, Lynne, Terry, Ray, Theresa, Ann, Jane Godfrey, Shey McAbee, Sharon McAbee, Patti Keiser, Sue Pereira, Bev Sawyer, Kathie Birkhaeuser. The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.



**To contact the church, please email:**

**Aimee Walat**, Administrative Assistant ([admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org))

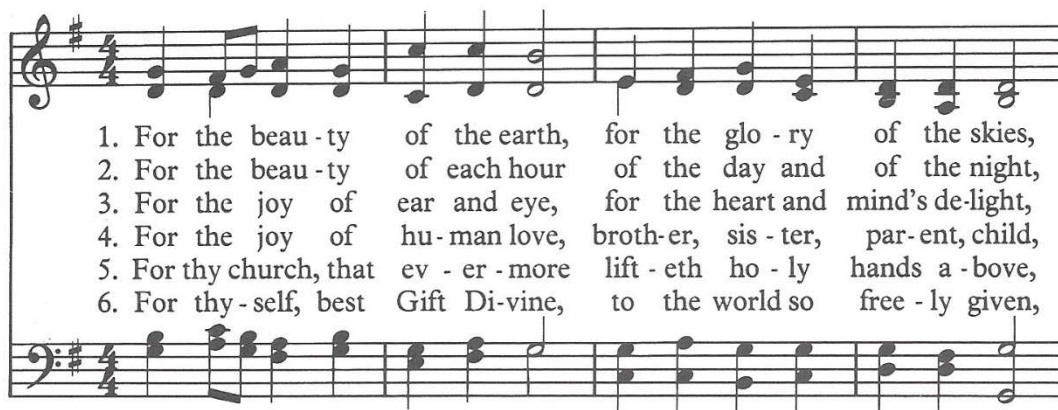
**Pastor Chip** ([pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org))

**Rev. Paul** ([christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org))

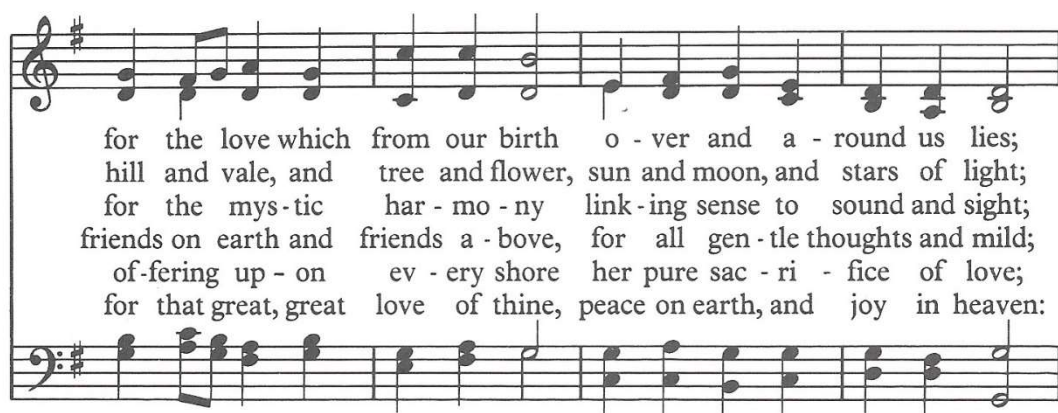


# For the Beauty of the Earth

92



1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2. For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,  
 4. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 5. For thy church, that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,  
 6. For thy - self, best Gift Di - vine, to the world so free - ly given,



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies;  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight;  
 friends on earth and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild;  
 of - fering up - on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love;  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

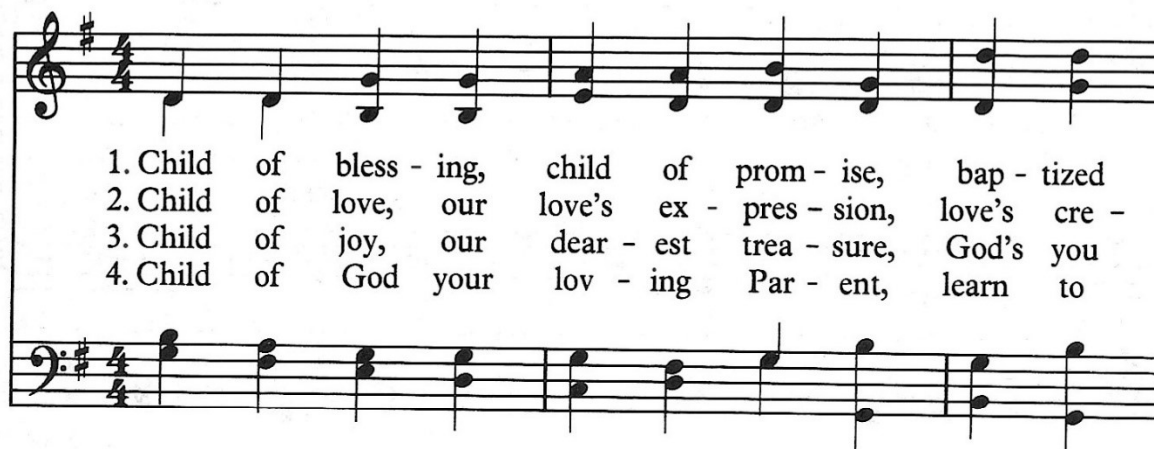
*Refrain*



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.  
 \* Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

\*For Holy Communion

# Child of Blessing, Child of Promise 611



1. Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized  
 2. Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -  
 3. Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you  
 4. Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to



with the Spir - it's sign; with this wa - ter  
 a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re -  
 are, from God you came. Back to God we  
 know whose child you are. Grow to laugh and



God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.  
 fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.  
 hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.  
 sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

2137

# Would I Have Answered When You Called



1. Would I have an - swered when you called, "Come,
2. Would I have fol - lowed where you led through
3. Would I have matched my step with yours when
4. O Christ, I can - not search my heart through



fol - low, fol - low me!"? Would I at once have  
an - cient Gal - i - lee, on roads un - known, by  
crowds cried, "Cru - ci - fy!" when on a rock - y  
all its tan - gled ways, nor can I with a



left be - hind both work and fam - i -  
ways un - tried, be - yond se - cu - ri -  
hill I saw a cross a - gainst the  
cer - tain mind my stead - fast - ness ap -



ly? Or would the old, fa - mil - iar round have  
ty? Or would I soon have hur - ried back where  
sky? Or would I too have slipped a - way and  
praise. I on - ly pray that when you call, "Come,



held me by its claim and kept the spark with -  
home and com - fort drew, where truth you taught would  
left you there a - lone, a dy - ing king with  
fol - low, fol - low me!" you'll give me strength be -



in my heart from burst - ing in - to flame?  
not dis - turb the or - dered world I knew?  
crown of thorns up - on a ter - rible throne?  
yond my own to fol - low faith - ful - ly.



## **Update on Church Finances**

Although September reports are still being finalized, Betsy, Lesley, and Joseph provided the necessary pledge receipts figures to complete an analysis. Amortizing for pre-paid pledges, pledge giving through Sept has fallen behind budget by \$4,000. And we are now \$72,000 short of the amount needed to balance the budget deficit passed at annual meeting.

The invested funds have a paper gain of 8.9% through September, or about \$96,000. However, since it was necessary to make some withdrawals in the last couple months, this equates to only about \$52,000 net of withdrawals.

Along with a \$29,000 carryover from 2020, additional withdrawals from invested funds of \$10,000 in August and \$34,000 in September were made. Most of that was to cover ongoing expenses, with \$17,000 of it used to cover the first billing for the boiler replacement.

The total boiler cost is expected to be at least \$60,000. The possibility of a loan to cover at least some of the cost is being investigated. However, the timing of billings and payments in the short term will require an additional withdrawal from invested funds. Of the amount approved at annual meeting, Joseph has calculated that only \$39,000 remains for approved withdrawals from invested funds at this time. This is not enough to cover budgeted expenses and boiler costs. An additional withdrawal for the boiler will require the approval of Church Council since it will be beyond the amount authorized at annual meeting. -*Lisa Fallon*

## **This Week at Wilbraham United Church**

**Tuesday, October 12**

**3:30-5:00 p.m.** Office Hours with Rev. Paul

**Wednesday, October 13**

**10 a.m-2 p.m.** Office Hours with Pastor Chip

**7:00 p.m.** Church Council (Zoom)

**Thursday, October 14**

**10 a.m-2 p.m.** Office Hours with Pastor Chip

**7:00 p.m.** Bell Choir

**Sunday, October 17**

**10:00 a.m.** Sunday Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live) **Please bring a mask**

**12:00 p.m.** Church Without Walls (Court Square)

**3:00 p.m.** Hampden Association, UCC Annual Meeting (Zoom)

# Please Join us for a Drive-by



Saturday, October 30, 2021  
Wilbraham United Church  
1:00-3:00 p.m.

- ❖ We are collecting non-perishable food items as well!
- ❖ Everyone is welcome!
- ❖ Facemasks and social distancing required for participation.
- ❖ We will have *some* nut-free treats.
- ❖ All trick or treaters will stay in the car until the...
- ❖ Free photo op at the end of the drive-thru. (This is when you can get out of the car!) We will email you the photo!!
- ❖ Please contact Rev. Paul or Shelly Capen at [christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) if you have questions.



## READ IT

This week's Bible story is  
**A Rich Man's Questions** Pentecost 19  
from Mark 10:17-31.



**We are called to share all that we have.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Camel
- Needle
- Rich man
- Jesus

Jesus talks about money and wealth a lot. Maybe this is because it is such a difficult issue for us. Interesting that it was an issue 2000 years ago, as well.

**Read the whole story together in the Bible!**

*Spark Story Bible* pages 334-335

*Spark Bible* pages 1113-1114

## Family Prayer

Thank you, God, for all you have given us.  
Give us grateful and generous hearts.  
Provide us with lots of opportunities to share, so that we can grow in our stewardship of material things. AMEN.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 Does the stuff we own make us happy or sad?
- 2 What does our family do when we find ourselves with too much stuff?
- 3 Who do you know who is really good at sharing?
- 4 How can we show that we put our faith in God and not money or stuff?



### Eye Spark

Whenever you see a picture of a camel, imagine it trying to go through the eye of a needle and remember this Bible story!

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Have a garage sale! Sell some of your old stuff and give the proceeds to an organization that could benefit from your donation. Consider having a "Free!" table with lots of items that someone who doesn't have any money might need.

### For younger kids

Pick three toys that you don't use anymore and share them with kids who don't have any toys.

### For older kids

Start a coin collection. Put your extra pennies, dimes, nickels, quarter, or even dollars in a safe place. Then donate it to a charity of your choice!



### Ear Spark

The next time you hear coins jingling, remember Jesus' call to share all that we have.