



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

www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

Facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch

February 11, 2024

Transfiguration Sunday

10:00AM

We ask that everyone wear nametags so that we can be welcoming to all. There are listening devices available for those that may need them. An usher will be happy to assist you. Following the service, everyone is invited to our time of refreshments and friendship in our Fellowship Hall. Please make a left out of our sanctuary, down the hall, and up the stairs. If you are unable to use the stairs, an elevator is available.

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (1)

arr. L. Larson

Bells & Piano: Come, Christians, Join to Sing

arr. S. Eithun

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #100 (UMH)**

God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us

CALL TO WORSHIP

Patti Colkos

Liturgist: Let us worship the God who lights our way through the darkness and fills the world with hope. We yearn for the One who gives life and light to the world, who creates and who is creating still.

People: We rejoice in our Lord who outshines the sun and whose love knows no limits. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God,

Every day you walk with us and you are aware of all our ways. You nurture us with your Spirit and you lend us grace when we are least deserving of it. For all this, we uplift to you our thanks and praise. Hear our deepest gratitude for your gifts of love and blessing, and may we grow towards you in our receiving them. Help us to fully appreciate all the good that you do and all the wonders you create, all the days of our lives. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE #92 (UMH)**

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 50: 1-6

The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Our God comes and does not keep silent; before him is a devouring fire and a mighty tempest all around him. He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

“Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing clearly the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’s sake. For it is the God who said, “Light will shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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 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.

Sung Response # 2200 (TFWS)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come, and listen to me.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 9: 2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be

here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

SERMON

The Glow

Rev. Janet

***HYMN # 384 (UMH)**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Alleluia! I Will Sing
Chancel Choir

D. Waggoner

***Doxology #94 (UMH)**

*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!*

*Prayer of Dedication

***PARTING HYMN # 480 (UMH)**

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

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

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #2238 (TFWS) Refrain**

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.*

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Piano: Everlasting Love (2)

L. Larson

1. Title also known as: God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us
2. Incorporating St. Margaret, hymn tune for today's closing hymn by E.L. Peace

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

The altar flowers this morning are being given to the Glory of God.

Welcome Visitors! *Is this your first visit to United Church? If you wish to be contacted by a member of the church or our pastor, please leave your contact information with one of the ushers or place a visitor card in the collection plate. We invite you to join us in our time of Fellowship after the service. Our ushers or a member of the ministry team will be happy to accompany you and help you find your way!*

*UMH – The “red” United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS – The “small black” book Faith We Sing Hymnal*

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical and Artistic Directors: Deb Trimble

Ushers: John and Taylor Colkos

Liturgist: Patti Colkos

Greeters: David and Joyce Pierangelo



Please Pray For: Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.



Wilbraham United Church Staff

Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind: Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103

Deb Trimble: Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100

Bobbie Morkin: Music Director (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x106

“News for the Pews” for the Week of February 11, 2024

REMINDER Work of the Interim Pastor - The next meeting will take place after church after church on February 25th. You are cordially invited to attend these gatherings as often as you are able.

The **Annual Financial Meeting** of the Wilbraham United Church will be held February 18, 2024 in the Sanctuary immediately following Worship to transact the following business:

-Receive the Treasurer's Report

-Adopt a budget

Act on any other business properly brought before the Meeting

Nan Shepard, Clerk



On Tuesday, February 13, join Rev. Janet at 2PM in the Zeckhausen Room for a Fat Tuesday celebration. Discussed will be the origins of “Mardi Gras” and its importance as a precursor to the Lenten season.

Appropriate “Fat Tuesday” refreshments will be served!



EASTER FLOWERS



**Order now for Easter Sunday
Give order to Deb Trimble
by Tuesday March 26th**

____ Easter Lily @ \$11

____ Daffodils @ \$10

\$____ TOTAL

(make check payable to Wilbraham United Church)

Name _____

Dedication wording _____

Flowers will be available after church March 31st

___ I plan to take my flowers

___ I wish my flowers to be delivered to someone who is unable to attend church.

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, February 11, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)

1:00 p.m. – WUP Chili Takeout(FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, February 12, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

6:30 p.m. – Trustees (ZR)

6:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

**11:00 a.m. – Women’s Fellowship
(ZR)**

2:00 p.m. – Fat Tuesday Celeb. (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

8:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast Group

11:00 a.m. – Staff meeting (office)

**6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts (SS Rooms,
TS, Youth Rm)**

**7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service
(Sanc)**

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Church Office 10:30 – 3:30

9:20 a.m. – Loaves and Fishes

6:00 p.m. – Girl Scouts (TS)

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. – Bells (Sanctuary)

8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (CR)

Friday, February 16, 2024

Church Office closed

Saturday, February 17, 2024

9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)

10:00 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

Sunday, February 18, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)

**11:30 a.m. – Annual Financial
Meeting of the church (Sanc)**

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

*Please note that the church office will
be closed on Monday February 19th
for the holiday.*

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

The Transfiguration

from Mark 9:2-9.

God's glory is forever—in the past, present, and future!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Mountain • Moses
- Dazzling • Cloud
- Elijah • Voice

This text brings together important Old and New Testament figures. Along with Jesus and three of his disciples are Moses, one called by God to lead the Hebrew people out of slavery, and the prophet Elijah, who was expected to return to Earth before the coming of the Messiah.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 358-359

Spark Bible page 1111

Family Prayer

Dear Jesus, We know we are unworthy of your love. But we pray for your grace in our lives to strengthen us and share your love with the world. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 Why do you think Jesus told the disciples not to reveal what they had seen on the mountain?
- 2 Have you ever experienced a moment when you felt like God was speaking directly to you?
- 3 What sort of a conversation do you think Moses and Elijah had with Jesus on the mountain?
- 4 What might the world look like if it became the Kingdom of Heaven?



Eye Spark

When you look up at the clouds on a sunny day, remember how God's voice came to Jesus and his disciples through the clouds on the top of the mountain during the transfiguration.



Ear Spark

When you hear a thunderclap, imagine how God must have sounded to everyone on the mountain during the transfiguration.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

The transfiguration story offers us a tiny glimpse of heaven's wonders. As a family, imagine what heaven's great banquet feast will look and taste like by having your own "Kingdom of Heaven" meal. Choose the best, freshest fruits and the richest, sweetest cakes, and anticipate the future that awaits us in God's kingdom.

For younger kids

Using a big piece of mural paper (or several smaller sheets of paper taped together), imagine what God's kingdom will look like. Will there be a big banquet table full of delicious food? What will the houses look like? We can't even begin to imagine the wonders that await us in heaven! Display your mural in a family gathering space and continue the discussion about what heaven will be like.

For older kids

Go online and do some research on the creation of the world. Remember that God has been around since then, and even before that! Can you imagine just how long forever really is? That's how long God's grace lasts—it is never-ending!



Lectionary: The Transfiguration Family Page. Spark™ Sunday School
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