



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

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

November 24, 2024

Thanksgiving 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 the Zeckhausen Room which is the parlor directly across the hall from the Sanctuary.

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

arr. J. Purifoy

Bells: Excerpt from Impressions on Sing We Now of Christmas arr. M. Compton

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #139 (UMH) vs. 1-4**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marty Lyman

Liturgist: We give thanks to the Lord this day and every day, for the Lord fills us with a Divine spark, which illuminates our way and keeps us from evil. Our God gives us a way to love, a means to give, and a heart with the potential for joy. How can we not offer our thanks and praise?

People: We give thanks for a faith that sustains us and for a God who loves us beyond measure. The Lord is our Keeper, our Maker, our Sustainer, and we are made glad by it. Thanks be to God

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, Your son Jesus once walked amongst us and lived as we live now. Help us to realize that there is indeed a Divine presence that still dwells amongst us; guiding our way, inspiring our thoughts, leading us in the ways and workings of Christ Jesus. Hear our prayers of Thanksgiving that you do not leave us alone, but allow us the means to live intensely and fully in the life that you have given to us. With faithful hearts, grant us evidence of your presence and your love, all the days of our earthly lives. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE # 334 (UMH)**

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face, And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNIOR CHOIR SONG

Thanksgiving Day

M. Marshall
arr. N.L. Butler-Moore

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 23: 1-7

Now these are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the Lord speaks through me; his word is upon my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: "One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land."

Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?

But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away, for they cannot be picked up with the hand; to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelations 1: 4b-8

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

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

*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.*

GOSPEL READING

John 18 33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Thanksgiving Meditation

Rev. Janet

*HYMN *see insert*

We Gather Together

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Peace Like a River with Amazing Grace
Chancel Choir

arr. J. Raney

*Doxology #87 (UMH)

*This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise.*

*Prayer of Dedication

*PARTING HYMN #102 (UMH)

Now Thank We All Our God

*FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # #665 (UMH)

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

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: We Gather Together

arr. D. Lasky

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*

The altar flowers this morning are given by Susan Pereira in loving memory of her father Ronald C Nobbs Jr. on the seventh anniversary of his passing.

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical and Artistic Director: Deb Trimble

Ushers: John and Taylor Colkos

Liturgist: Marty Lyman

Greeter: Joyce Emerle



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

We Gather Together

276

C Dm7 G C

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask for God's bless - ing,
 2. Be - side us to guide us, O God, we per - ceive you
 3. May all sing your prais - es, Re - deem - er tri - um - phant,

G C D G Am D7 G

to turn to a wis - dom sur - pass - ing our own;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing the pow - er of life.
 de - fend us, be - friend us, what - ev - er may be.

G7 C Dm7 G7

the pow'rs that op - press us now cease to dis - tress us.
 Yes, yours be the glo - ry; let all tell the sto - ry.
 May your con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion.

F G C Dm7 G7 C

O God, be pres - ent with us, and make your will known.
 Our God, be ev - er with us, in glad - ness and strife.
 Your name be praised for - ev - er, O God, make us free!

WORDS: *Nederlandsche Gedenckclanck*, 1626; tr. Theodore Baker, 1894;
 adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981
 MUSIC: Dutch melody (16th century); arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

KREMSER
 Irr.



Please Pray For: the family of Jane Godfrey, Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, Larry Harris, George Keddy, David Pierangelo, The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.

*If you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact Rev. Janet or the Church Office.
After office hours, Rev. Janet can be reached at (978)350-3463.*

“News for the Pews” for the Week of November 24, 2024



Calling all **cookie bakers!**

Once again we're looking for your most special cookies, bars and barks for our world famous cookie walk at this year's Holly Fair! Items can be dropped off to the church kitchen by the morning of Friday, 12/13. Not a baker yourself? Maybe you have a family member or friend who is and they might be willing to bake for us. This is always one of the most popular stops at the Holly Fair all because of your support! Reach out to Chrissy Plumb with any questions - plumb1993@charter.net.

Order forms for **Christmas Poinsettias** are available in the Narthex or in the church office. Orders must be received in the office no later than December 5th.

HOLLY FAIR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
HELP WANTED!
We are in need of volunteers to help make this fair a super success!
Volunteers are needed for:
Decorating, Cookie Walk, Bakers, Raffle,
Lug Nuts, Greeting, Furniture moving,
Holly Cafe...
Contact Kim Ryan:
WUChurchEvents@gmail.com
519-6335

A CIRCLE OF SUPPORT
IN CHALLENGING AND
UNCERTAIN TIMES

We are about to enter a new year, and there is considerable anxiety and uncertainty surrounding what this New Year will look like. Because of the concerns and fears which have been expressed by many, the Wilbraham United Church would like to offer a safe place where people can come and express their opinions, worries and differing experiences. We aim to listen with respect and compassion, and to be open to everyone's point of view.

Beginning on **November 26, 2024**, from 4:30-5:30, you are invited to come and share your concerns in a place that holds no judgement.

For more information, please contact the church office (413)596-2511 x100 or admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

All are welcome

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
"I am the vine, you are the branches"

Additional Meeting Dates December 3 & 17

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, November 24, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

5:00 p.m. – Confirmation Class (ZR)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, November 25, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. –Preschool Celebration
(TS)

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

8:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast Group

10:00 a.m. – Preschool Celebration
(TS)

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

4:30 p.m. – Circle of Support (ZR)

5:30 p.m. – Discipleship Comm.
(Lib)

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Church Office 10:30 – 3:30

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. – Turkey Trot Set Up (FH)

7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)

Thursday, November 28, 2024

Church Office Closed

7:00 a.m. –Turkey Trot (FH)

Friday, November 29, 2024

Church Office closed

6:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)

Saturday, November 30, 2024

Church Office closed

Sunday, December 1, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

3:00 p.m. – Handbell Concert (Sanc)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

RING
IN THE
SEASON
WITH
UNITED WE RING
HANDBELL ENSEMBLE
Sunday
December 1, 2024
3:00 p.m.
Wilbraham United Church
500 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA
sponsored in part by the Wilbraham Cultural Council

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Christ the King

from John 18:33-37.



Christ the King

Jesus is the king of love!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Pontius Pilate
- Priests
- Jesus
- King of the Jews
- Kingdom

The religious leaders found Jesus guilty of blasphemy (disrespect), but only officials of the Roman government, like a governor, could order someone to be executed.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 474-475

Spark Bible page 1196

Family Prayer

King of Love, call us to be your servants. Give us opportunities to practice kindness, grace, love, and forgiveness. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

1 Have you ever seen a real king? What was he like?

2 If Jesus is king, what does that make us? Prince and princesses? Servants of the king?

3 What kinds of decrees or laws would a King of Love make?

4 Borrow a book of worship from your church and see how many hymns you can find to sing about Jesus being a King of Love.



Eye Spark

Next time you see picture of a crown or castle, remember how Jesus was a different kind of king - he didn't live in a castle or wear fancy clothes.



Ear Spark

When you hear the word "king," remember that Jesus was the King of Love.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Make a crown for the King of Love. Would he have a crown glittering with precious metals and jewels? What materials will you use and why? What kinds of symbols might you include on this crown? Set it on your table as a centerpiece when you're finished.

For younger kids

Act out this story with your family. Pretend to be a priest, Jesus, or Pontius Pilate.

For older kids

Use the internet to find the words "king," "love," "Christ," and "Jesus" in different spoken or sign languages. In how many different languages can you learn how to say "Jesus is the King of Love" or "Christ the King?"



Lectionary, Christ the King, Spark™ Sunday School © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for local use provided every copy carries this notice.