



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

April 6, 2025

5th Sunday in Lent

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 Zeckhausen Room, which is immediately across from the sanctuary.

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: Let Us Break Bread Together

arr. J. Purifoy

Bells: I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger

arr. T. Waldrop

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #152 (UMH)**

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ed McCorkindale

Liturgist: God invites us in, to be in the presence of the One who made us. God's love has been poured into our hearts, so we gather with determination to express our gladness, our wonder, our hope in the mystery of our Creator.

People: In the shadow of God's wing, we worship and we trust that our Lord has a plan for us. We are fortified with the knowledge that in all that we do and in all that we are, the Lord remains with us. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, We worship you because we are your people and we belong to you. In our living, in our work, and in our worship we strive to follow you faithfully and serve you as best as we are able. Sometimes our journey of Christian service is too hard, but we depend on you to hold us up and remind us that your love and your strength are with us always. Lend us your courage, Oh God, and a renewed heart to serve you faithfully, and love you all the more. Amen

*** SONG OF PRAISE #2013 (TFWS)**

*Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL MOMENT You are My King (Amazing Love) Billy James Foote
Praise Band

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 43: 16-21

I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down; they cannot rise; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 3:4 -14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining

forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us, then, who are mature think this way, and if you think differently about anything, this, too, God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

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

John 12: 1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Communion Meditation

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #618 (UMH)**

Let Us Break Bread Together

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Love Will Rise
Chancel Choir

K. Crane & J.B. Taylor

***Doxology #87 (UMH) vs. 1**

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

*Prayer of Dedication

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: God be with you

People: And also with you

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Words of Remembrance

Distribution of Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***PARTING HYMN #627 (UMH)**

O the Depth of Love Divine

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

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #664 (UMH)**

*Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.*

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: Hornpipe in D

J.S. Dixon

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 Director: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Bill Lynch, Marty Lyman

Liturgist: Ed McCorkindale

Greeter: Joyce Emerle

Communion: Bill Lynch, Joyce Pierangelo



The altar flowers this morning are given in memory of John Marek and Kenneth Lamb by Chrissy Plumb



Please Pray For: Susan Pereira, Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, Larry Harris, 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.*

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 April 6, 2025

The Discipleship Team is accepting donations of individually wrapped candy to stuff the eggs for our **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**. Donations can be dropped off in the church office or given to a member of the Discipleship Team on or before April 16th.

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, April 6, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship**
- 11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)**
- 11:15 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)**
- 2:30 p.m. – WUP Performance**
- 5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)**

Monday, April 7, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30

- 9:30 a.m. – WUP (FH)**
- 10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers**

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30

- 8:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast Group**
 - 2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)**
- #### ***Wednesday, April 9, 2025***
- Church Office 11:30 – 2:30*
- 11:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting**
 - 6:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS, SSR)**
 - 7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)**

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

- 6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)**
- 7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)**
- 8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)**

Friday, April 11, 2025

Church Office closed

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Church Office closed

- 11:00 a.m. – George Emerle
Celebration of Life (FH)**

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship**
- 11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)**
- 11:15 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)**
- 1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)**
- 5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)**



Repair the Roof

Be a Shingle Sponsor!

Sponsorship is \$50 and will include your name on our Repair the Roof Dedication List proudly displayed in our church!

Donations are tax-deductible!

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A promotional graphic for Holy Week. On the left, a wooden cross is set against a light background with green palm fronds. Below the cross is the Wilbraham United Church logo, which features a green circle with a white cross and the text "WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH" and "I am the vine, you are the branches." The right side of the graphic has a purple background with white and yellow text.

Wilbraham United Church
Holy Week Schedule

APRIL 13 - PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 A.M.
APRIL 17 - MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP 7 P.M.
APRIL 18 - GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 12 NOON
APRIL 20 - EASTER WORSHIP 10 A.M.

All are welcome! All are invited!

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READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Mary Anoints Jesus

from John 12:1-8.



Lent 5

Jesus pours love out on us — give all your love to Jesus!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Mary
- Jesus
- Perfume
- Feet
- Judas

This story appears in all four Gospels.

Although the details differ in each telling, the point — the extravagance of the anointing — is the same.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 444-445

Spark Bible page 1188

Family Prayer

Say this prayer barefooted.

Thank you, Jesus, for pouring out your love on us. Call us to love you by loving one another with extravagance! AMEN!

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What is your favorite smell?
- 2 How do you make yourself smell good?
- 3 What is the most extravagant gift you've ever given?
- 4 Play "Even better...." Start a story off in which you love someone in a simple way. Example: "One day, I took some cookies to the neighbors who were having a hard week." The next person says, "Even better...I took some cookies and volunteered to walk their dog." The next person says, "Even better, I took some cookies, walked the dog, and mowed their lawn for them...." Play continues as long as you can keep thinking of extravagant additions to how you can serve others.



Eye Spark

When you see a bottle of perfume or scented lotion, remember this story of Mary rubbing Jesus' feet with perfume.



Ear Spark

When you hear someone crying, think about how you might be able to help them.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Love somebody close to your family in a tangible way — make a meal, babysit, send some flowers, or do a secret kindness.

For younger kids

Give someone in your family a foot rub with good smelling lotion!

For older kids

This story appears in the other three Gospels too. See if you can find them. Use a study Bible or an online Bible if you need help. Read the other accounts. Then compare and contrast the stories. Make four drawings, photos, or short videos to illustrate the four tellings. Then share these four stories with your family and friends.

