

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL FESTIVAL WORSHIP



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 17, 2024

*Please stand, as able

Bold text indicates congregational response or singing.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Before Thy Throne, I Come BWV 668

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 85

Let us hear what God will speak,
for the Holy One speaks peace to the people,
to the faithful, and to all who turn to God in their hearts.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet.

Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

**The Holy One will give what is good,
and we will bring our praise and song.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love and kindness,
you have promised to renew our lives,
to be with us in a new heaven and new earth—
a realm where steadfast love and faithfulness kiss forever.

We sometimes fear new possibilities

We cling to rules we understand:

rules that privilege and empower only some of us.

We fail to steward the flourishing life for all people.

God, help us be a resurrected people, a resurrected church that covenants with all your
beloved creation. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In God's love and mercy,
we are given each new day
for the healing of the world.

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 70

God is Here! As We Your People

ABBOTT'S LEIGH

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 7:1-17 (A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church)

Now, about what you have written: It is good for a man not to take hold of a woman. But because of sexual immorality, each man should have his own woman and each woman her own man. For the wife, the husband should do his duty and likewise the wife for her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, rather the husband does; likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, yet the wife does. Do not ever defraud each another except by agreement for a time to devote yourselves to prayer, and then come together again so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. This I say as a concession, not a command. I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has their own gift from God, indeed one to one and another to another.

To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain so. But if they are not showing self-control, they should marry; for it is better to marry than to burn. To the married I give this command—not I but the Most High—a woman should not separate from her man, though if she does separate, let her remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her man; also a man should not divorce his woman. To the rest I say—I and not the Most High—that if a believer has a woman who is an unbeliever and she agrees to live with him, he should not divorce her. And if a woman has a man who is an unbeliever and he agrees to live with her, she should not divorce him. For the unbelieving man is made holy through his woman, and the unbelieving woman is made holy through her man. Otherwise, your children would be unclean, yet now they are holy. Now if the unbeliever leaves, let them leave; a sister or brother is not bound in such circumstances. It is to peace that God has called you. For woman, how do you know whether you will save your man, and how do you know, man, whether you will save your woman? However let each walk through life as the Holy One has designated and as God has called them. This is what I instruct all the churches.

Mark 10:1-16

(A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church)

Now Jesus arose from [Capernaum] and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan and crowds of women, children, and men again gathered around him, and as was his custom, again he taught them. Then came Pharisees, asking him if it was permissible for a man to divorce, testing Jesus. But he answered, saying to them, "What did Moses command you?" Now, they said, "Moses allowed writing a document of release and divorce." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hard-heartedness he inscribed this commandment for you all. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them female and male' *'Because of this a man shall leave his mother and father and be joined to his woman, and the two shall become one flesh.'* Thus they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no mortal separate." Then in the house, again the disciples asked Jesus about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his woman and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her man and marries another, she commits adultery."

Also, women and men were bringing him children so that he might hold them and the disciples rebuked them. Yet when Jesus saw he became angry and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them. For to such ones the reign of God belongs. Truly I tell you all, whoever does not receive the reign of God as a little child will not enter it." Then he embraced them, blessing them, laying his hands on them.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Noisy Offering for the CROP Hunger Walk

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Where Children Belong

RITCHIE



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-come as part of the wor-ship-ing throng.



Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be-long.

***HYMN OF THE DAY 202**

O God How We Have Wandered

PASSION CHORALE

***CALL TO SHARING**

ANTHEM

Lord, Don't Forsake Me

Todd Rakestraw

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
 Christ, all peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spi - rit
 ev - er - more; praise Tri - une God whom we a - dore.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... Together we lift our voices in thanksgiving and praise:

*SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Gospel Sanctus and Benedictus

David E. Poole

Ho - ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly, God of pow-er,
God of might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry.
9 Ho - san-na in the high - est! Blessed is the
One, Blessed is the One, blessed is the One who comes in the
name of the Lord, Ho - san-na! Ho - san-na!
Ho - san - na in the high - est!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please come forward to receive the bread and cup. We offer a gluten-free option in the basket with purple linens and serve only non-alcoholic grape juice. Raise your hand if you would like a pastor to bring the elements to you. Communion cups may be left in the openings on the back of the pews. Healing prayer is offered in the back of the sanctuary during Communion.

COMMUNION HYMN 449

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Violin Concerto, Op. 14
I. Allegro (excerpts)

Samuel Barber

Open Bells Rehearsal: COME TRY OUT A NEW SKILL!

Monday, March 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Hall

"I grew up playing piano, but haven't practiced in years." "I played [insert instrument name] in high school band, and I miss making music with others." "I have always wanted to play an instrument, but it's probably too late to learn." "I would love to join a choir, but my voice is [croaky/raspy/out of tune]." I am guessing that one of these sentences is true for almost every person reading this - and very probably more than one! If you recognize yourself in one of these statements you really need to give handbells a try! Note: Teens are welcome too. This is truly an equal opportunity group!

To play handbells you need to:

- * know how to read rhythms (or be willing to learn!)
- * be able to read only 5 or 6 pitches on a music staff as opposed to, say, trumpet (26) or piano (88)
- * have reasonable arm and wrist muscles
- * commit to 1 hour a week on Monday evenings and the occasional Sunday morning. No homework!

That's it! And the benefits of being in a handbell group? The list is long. Here's just a start:

- * a sense of camaraderie and teamwork like no other!
- * a supportive and caring small group of new friends
- * the magic and joy of being a part of creating beauty
- * the chance to offer your skill and talent in service to God and God's church

Would you like to give it a try? Come to our open rehearsal on March 18 and try your hand - and wrist - at ringing! RSVP to Nan de Andrade, ndea1956@gmail.com, or text 919-402-3206. (If having childcare available would make it possible for you to come, just let Nan know!)



GRATITUDE CORNER

I am grateful for a significant number of people I know because of UCCH's commitment to diversity. Without this commitment, I still might have known a few of these people, but I would've known none in the context of Christian Community. These are vital Christians whose faith I admire. —John Becton

We hope you'll read this brief devotion as an invitation to name your gratitude. If you can name something about our church community that makes you want to give thanks and sing in less than 200 words, we'd love to print it here. Send your submission to mmee@unitedchurch.org.

HIDDEN HILL WORKSHOP PART 2

Today in the Fellowship Hall after Festival Worship
Chapel Hill is a town some have referred to as "the Southern part of heaven." And yet, like the rest of the South, it has a long history of racial struggle. In February 1960, civil rights activists from Chapel Hill's black neighborhoods, mostly teenagers from all-black Lincoln High, took up the charge in Chapel Hill, planning and staging the first sit-in at Colonial Drug store on Franklin Street. But this was only the start of a freedom struggle against local injustices that continues today. In this two-part, interactive, multimedia workshop, we'll ask: How does the history of enslavement, Jim Crow, and segregation relate to Chapel Hill's reputation for liberal politics? Why is it important to tell the truth about history critically and boldly? In the second part of the workshop, students will delve deeper into civil rights history by listening to a spoken word performance and engaging in a discussion of current social justice struggles. Join us in the Fellowship Hall today for the second half of this workshop.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR CHURCH YARD SALE

(Yard sale on Saturday, April 13, 8 a.m.-12p.m.)

Doing some spring cleaning? Something you no longer want or need may be just the thing someone else is looking for...so donate it to the church for our yard sale! Consider donating: clothing, toys, tools, small appliances, electronics, books, decorative items, bicycles, and furniture that's in decent shape.

Drop off items at the church:

Monday, March 25–Friday, March 29 (10 a.m.–4 p.m.)

Tuesday, April 2–Friday, April 5 (10 a.m.–4 p.m.),

or the morning of Sunday, April 7

Please send a photo of any large items (like furniture) to one of the people listed below before bringing it to the church. We may also be able to pick up items if you are not able to bring them in. Funds raised will support English as a Second Language classes to be held at UCCH in the future. Contact Linda (linsoto@gmail.com), Kati (kruark@unitedchurch.org), or Nubia (riverobello62@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like to have items picked up for the yard sale.

Volunteers: We need several people to prepare for, work during, and clean up the church yard sale taking place on April 13! Use the SignUpGenius form linked in our enews to volunteer. Sorting/pricing dates and times are TBD; if you are interested in helping with that, please sign up and we will send an email letting you know when that will happen. There will also be flyers available for you to take to your office, gym, school, etc. to spread the word about the yard sale.

MYSTERY PALS REVEAL PARTY TODAY

The Mystery Pals reveal party is today! Mystery Pals are invited to gather in the youth room after Festival Worship (~11 a.m.).

TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY PANEL

Saturday, March 23, from 5-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
El Centro Hispano, in collaboration with UCCH, will host a panel discussion with expert transgender leaders and allies from various fields of work to guide us in a dialogue that seeks to provide visibility to both the struggles that transgender people face in the Triangle and the ways in which they actively fight for their lives and their liberation. By holding this panel, we commemorate International Transgender Day of Visibility (which is on March 31) and recognize the importance of heightening our comprehension and empathy toward these themes, creating space for these powerful stories to become part of our own. We hope that those who attend will learn about the issues faced by transgender people in the Triangle and discover ways in which they can support and defend the transgender community from the constant attacks they face from their families, doctors, teachers, churches, and politicians. This event will be bilingual (Spanish and English). If you plan to attend, RSVP by emailing Caleb Wolf (cwolf@unitedchurch.org).

JOIN THE UCCH CROP HUNGER WALK TEAM!

Walk with us on Sunday, March 24 to benefit IFC and Church World Service hunger relief efforts! Stop by our narthex table today for information, donations and t-shirts (cash/check only). The need has never been greater for those facing food insecurity in our community and around the world. Register/donate on the UCCH team page----->



FRIDAY MORNING YOGA CLASS

Fridays at 9 a.m. in the Assembly Hall

All levels welcome! Contact Melanie Joiner (melanie.spence@gmail.com) for more info.

BLACK LIVES MATTER VIGILS

Fridays at 4 p.m. on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

All are welcome! To join the email list, please contact Natalie Boorman (hickorygroveart@mindspring.com).

FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

A selection of texts related to today's scripture themes are arranged on the small wooden rack in the center of the library. If you have questions or are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact Barbara Wildemuth (wildemuth@unc.edu).

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Learn more about worship on the "Welcome to United Church" card in your pew.

SERVICE NOTES

MUSICIANS: The Commas: Katherine Henderson, Owen Henderson, Matt Rosamond, Kathy VandenBerg, Jody Forehand, Elizabeth Uzzell, Baxter Henderson (violin), Doug Zabor (guitar), Craig Smith (mandolin); Postlude: Baxter Henderson, violin; Jasmine Campbell, piano.

DEACON: Lee Schimmelfing

READER: Chip Baker

LIVESTREAM: Bill Siddall

SOUNDBOARD: Peter Schay

COFFEE HOST: Pam Ryan

COVER ART: *Homage to Apollinaire* by Marc Chagall, 1911-1912.

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UNITED CHURCH STAFF

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ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY &

BELONGING: Caleb Wolf

MINISTER TO CHILDREN: Anitra Grove

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Jennifer Anderson

ORGANIST: Alan Davis

ADJUNCT MUSIC STAFF: Charles Bradshaw (United Voices of Praise Director), Nan de Andrade (Handbell Director), & Bianca Muñoz (La Mesa Music Director)

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Kati Ruark

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: Marisa Mee

BUSINESS MANAGER: Duane Gilbert

SEXTON: Bruce Thomas

KITCHEN STEWARDS: Nubia Rivero Bello, Hser Nay Htoo, & Andreina Galindez

NURSERY DIRECTOR: Alison Robertson

NURSERY ASSISTANTS: Alex Tanner, Colin Tanner, Harper Gray, Brooke Reynolds, Kallista Mela, Mimi Reeves, & Elizabeth Hall

Scripture translations are from *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church (Year B)*, Wilda C. Gafney (2023). Worship is organized around readings from the Bible, so the texts we choose have a powerful role in shaping our faith. We believe that all of God's people should see themselves reflected in the stories read in worship. *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church* is a resource that helps us choose stories from the canon of Christian scripture that include women and children at the center of the narrative. When we make a special effort to attend to the voices of women in scripture, we find ourselves also reflecting on other communities marginalized in the Christian tradition: people of color, queer and nonbinary people, immigrants, other communities whose presence in God's family go unnoticed. Wilda Gafney's translations of the text expand our imagination for God, challenging us to relate to a God who is both gendered by history and beyond our understanding of gender. Our journey with the Women's Lectionary reflects our racial equity commitments and our desire to welcome all of our neighbors into the worship of She Who Speaks Life.

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A PLACE of BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN