



**March 14th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

4th Sunday in Lent

**Union Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

***An Open and Affirming, Earthwise,  
Progressive Christian Congregation***

**Elk River, Minnesota 763-441-1203**

**[www.elkriverucc.org](http://www.elkriverucc.org) / [churchoffice@elkriverucc.org](mailto:churchoffice@elkriverucc.org)**

# Welcome!

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomes everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey.

During this time of social distancing due to the COVID-19 virus, we are conducting worship via Facebook Live broadcasts. You can watch it live, or at any time after the service.

Please contact the church at any time if you need to reach out. We are here – just a safe distance away.

We will continue to assess the situation and listen to the advice from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota UCC Conference office in making decisions on how to move forward. Please pay attention to your email for further updates.

Grace and Peace to all.



## **VISION**

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

*(Micah 6:8, (NIV))*

## ***Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Mission Statement***



*God calls us to minister to each other. This ministry goes beyond our congregation into the community, wider world, and to the earth itself. We seek to reach those in the margins of society, to empower the powerless, and to leave this earth a better place than when we each arrived.*

## PRELUDE

## WORDS OF CENTERING

"For grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may be able to do them."

-Saint Augustine of Hippo

## LIGHTING THE CANDLES and WELCOME

*We invite you to click a Reaction button on Facebook to let us know you are with us.*

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP 187 *Lord Prepare me, to be a Sanctuary*

***"Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and***

***true; with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you."***

***"God empow'r me to be a witness for you, acting boldly, in your***

***name; seeking justice, where there is hurting offering hope where***

***there is pain. "***

# CALL TO WORSHIP

(PLEASE JOIN IN CALL AND RESPONSE)

One: How tempting this morning to lounge about the house, linger over breakfast or never change out of pajamas.

**Many: And yet, we realize that we can come to worship however we are, wherever we are, with an awakened faith and a hungering spirit.**

One: How much this morning we wanted to continue reading the comics, scrolling through our Facebook or instagram posts.

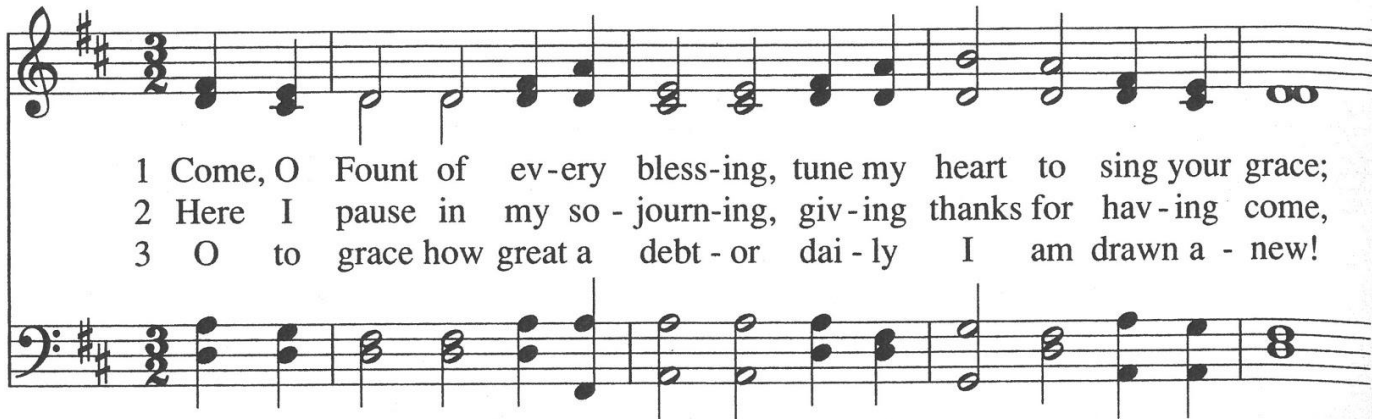
**Many: We come to worship seeking God's good news and wanting to participate in the community of the church.**

One: It was so tempting to be doing something else.

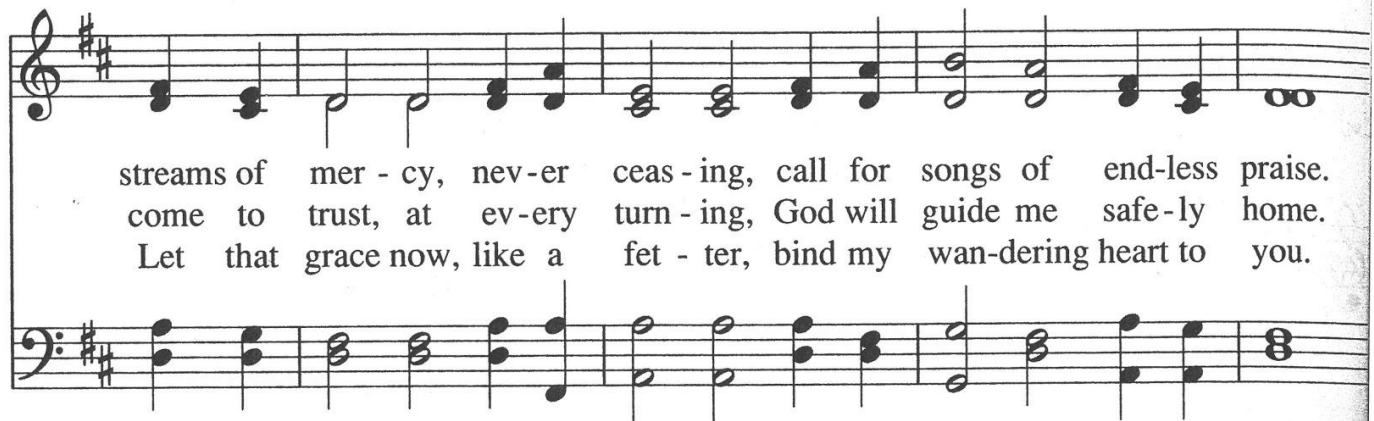
**Many: And yet - how delightful - how grand - to be here!**

One: We come to praise the God of all creation, the Christ who brings us grace, the Spirit of truth and liberation. And for that, we are grateful.

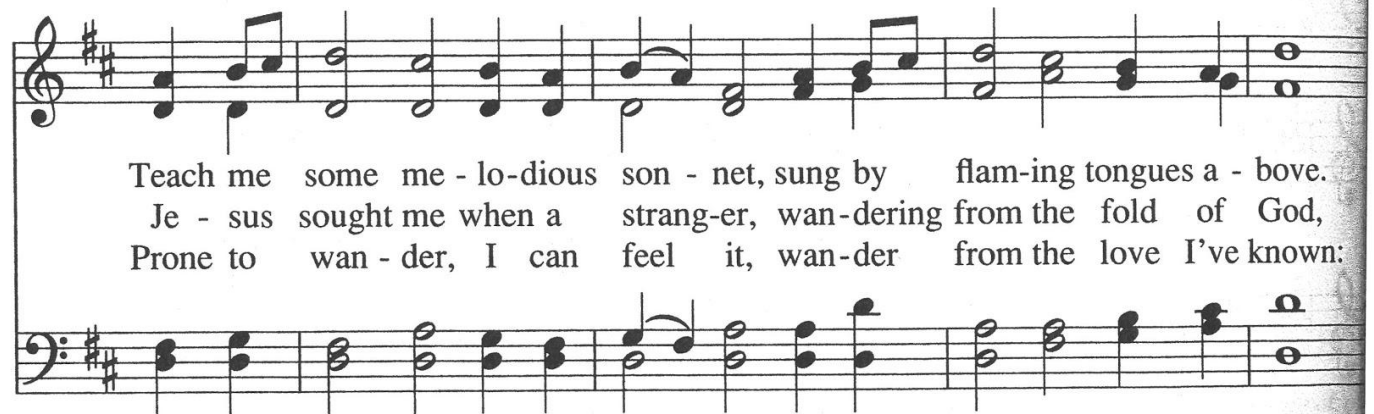
## Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

*Ps. 36:7-9**Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.*


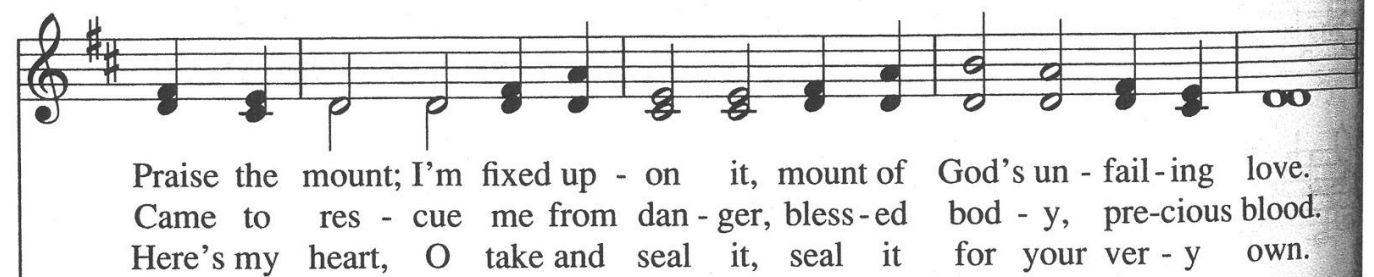
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,  
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.  
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn-ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,  
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.  
 Came to res - cue me from dan-ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

## LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PEACE PRAYER

### \*GREETING OF PEACE

In the same spirit in which we receive the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ, let us offer to one another our own sign of peace.

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

### SPECIAL MUSIC

Carson

### TIME WITH CHILDREN

## SCRIPTURE READING

## Ephesians 2: 1-10

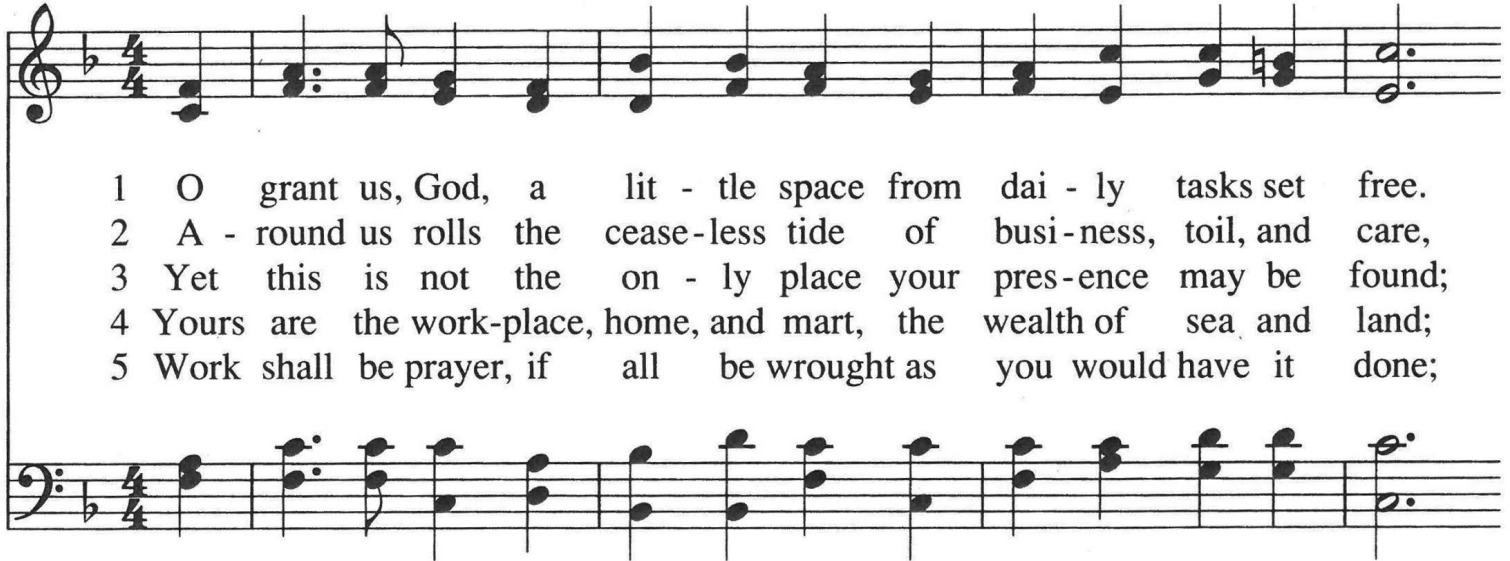
“1 You were dead because of your sins and offenses, 2 which you committed in your allegiance both to the present age and to the ruler of the power of the air—that spirit who is even now at work among “the children of rebellion.” 3 And all of us were among them; we lived at the level of the flesh, following every whim of the flesh, every fancy of this age, and so by nature deserved God’s wrath like the rest. 4 But God, rich in mercy and loving us so much, 5 brought us to life in Christ, even when we were dead in our sins. It is through this grace that we have been saved. 6 God raised us up and, in union with Christ Jesus, gave us a place in the heavenly realm, 7 to display in ages to come how immense are the resources of God’s grace and kindness in Christ Jesus. 8 And it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith—and even that is not of yourselves, but the gift of God. 9 Nor is it a reward for anything that you have done, so nobody can claim the credit. 10 We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to do the good things God created us to do from the beginning.”

## REFLECTION

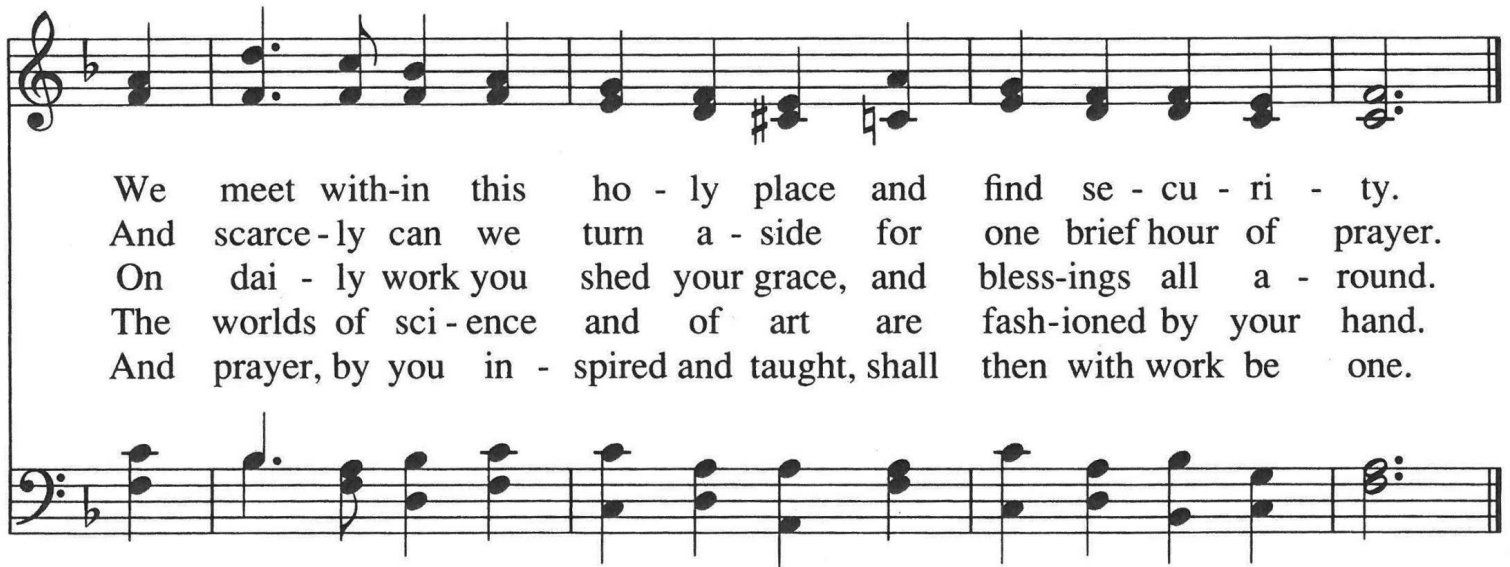
## Fall Into Grace

## O Grant Us, God, a Little Space

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*John Ellerton, 1870; alt.*

1 O grant us, God, a lit - tle space from dai - ly tasks set free.  
2 A - round us rolls the cease-less tide of busi-ness, toil, and care,  
3 Yet this is not the on - ly place your pres-ence may be found;  
4 Yours are the work-place, home, and mart, the wealth of sea and land;  
5 Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought as you would have it done;



We meet with-in this ho - ly place and find se - cu - ri - ty.  
And scarce-ly can we turn a - side for one brief hour of prayer.  
On dai - ly work you shed your grace, and bless-ings all a - round.  
The worlds of sci - ence and of art are fash-ioned by your hand.  
And prayer, by you in - spired and taught, shall then with work be one.



## OUR TIME OF SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

### THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT (let us pray together)

Our Creator in Heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO GIVE/RECEIVING OUR GIFTS

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION (let us pray together)

O God, we affirm our love for others by presentations of gifts and the vows of commitment. Receive these offerings as sincere affirmations of our love for you. Put to holy use our giftedness and our committed lives. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

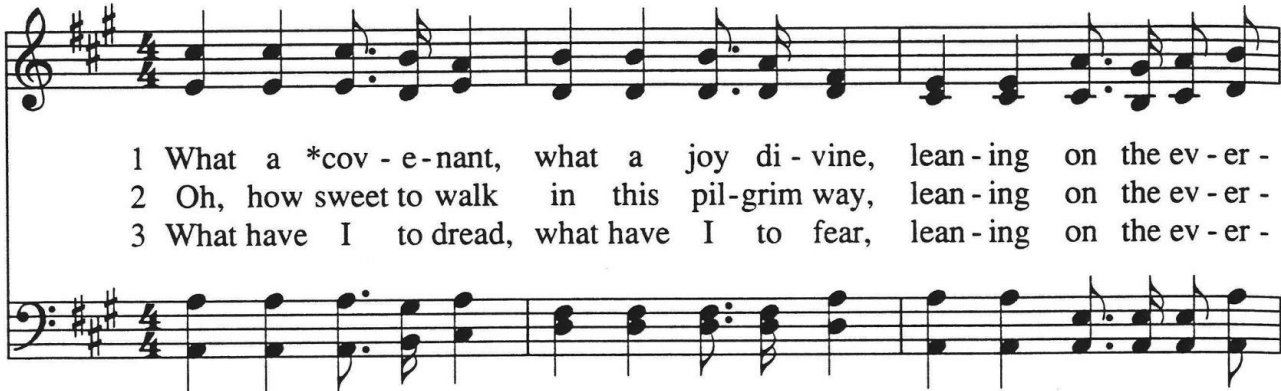
## HYMN

471 What a Covenant  
What a Covenant

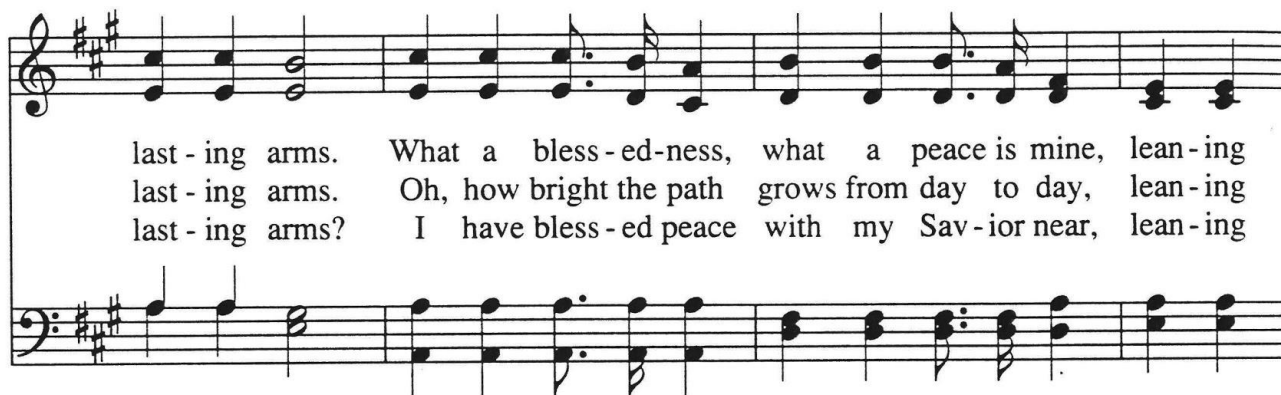
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Deut. 33:27

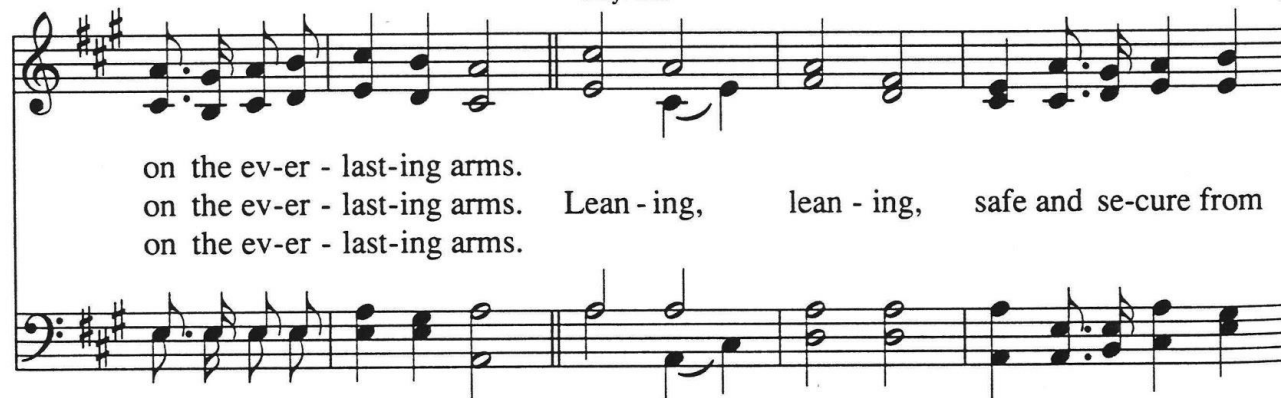
Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.



1 What a \*cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

*Refrain*


on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

## BENEDICTION

One: May the peace of Christ inhabit our hearts and be at home in our homes.

**Many: May it lead us to construct a just and wholesome future, hospitable to every part of God's creation.**

One: Be at peace. Be hope-filled. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

## **Elk River Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**

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*Pastor:* Rev. Robin Raudabaugh

*Director of Faith Formation:*

Gigi Nauer

*Office Administrator:*

Rylie Anderson

*Piano & Organ:* Carson Schneider

*Handbell and Chorister Director:*

Gigi Nauer

*Choir Director:* Sam Eckberg

*Liturgist:* Su Arnold

*Cantor:*

### **Announcements**

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#### **Office Hours**

Office hours for the church this week are Monday through Wednesday, 9:00am to 1:00pm. Rev. Robin is available by appointment or can always be contacted during the day, evenings & weekends via phone or text at 651.216.9012 or email [revrobin@elkriverucc.org](mailto:revrobin@elkriverucc.org). Call the church at (763) 441-1203 to talk with Rylie about access to the building or answering general questions. You can always email the church office at [churchoffice@elkriverucc.org](mailto:churchoffice@elkriverucc.org).

#### **Pastoral Emergencies**

In the event of an emergency, an accident, or a death, please call the church office or contact Rev. Robin Raudabaugh directly via phone or text at 651.216.9012 or [revrobin@elkriverucc.org](mailto:revrobin@elkriverucc.org).

#### **Church Materials**

Copies of the Sunday sermon are available via Facebook and UCC Squared Newsletter (email).

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## **KEPT IN OUR PRAYERS**

Please keep in your prayers our congregation members: Ella Rivers, Donna Church, Musz Bailey, Jim Babcock, Shelley Sherper, Bobbie Berg, Susan Olsen, Jackie Schuelein, Carol Lloyd, Dave Leland, Joanne Burdick, Ruby Cawthra, Jane Houlton, baby James Bowman, Marion Marcott, Cheryl Wold, Judy Halgren, Amy Britt, Bailey Rosdahl, Jimmy Stevens, Dee & Jim Stevens (Jimmy's parents), Dave Foley, John Olson, Nicole [Kilber] Teske, Linda Fenton, Jim Powell, Joyce Hodge, Dave Halgren, Diane Narr and Joan Axen.

## **SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEKS**

### **Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service via  
Facebook Live**

**11:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour  
Liturgist: Su Arnold**

### **Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**6:00 p.m. Lent Devotional**

**6:30 p.m. Outside Group (PEO  
Meeting)**

### **Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**6:30 p.m. Bible Study (virtual)**

**6:30 p.m. Outside Group (Female  
Scouts)**

### **Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**3:45 SARI Demonstration Sherburne  
County Gov't center**

### **Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**6 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)**

**7p.m. Diaconate Meeting**

### **Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service via  
Facebook Live**

**11:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour**

**3:30 p.m. Outside Group (Busy Bees  
4-H)**

**Liturgist: Diane Narr**

### **Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

**9:30 amSARI Core Meeting**

**6:00 p.m. Lent Devotional**

### **Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

**5:00 p.m. Congregational Life**

**6:30 p.m. Bible Study (virtual)**

**6:30 p.m. Outside Group (Female  
Scouts)**

### **Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**3:45 SARI Protest Sherburne County  
Gov't center**

### **Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)**

### **Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Scout Night)**