



March 7th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

3rd 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 / 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

Our wisdom comes from our experience, and our experience comes from our foolishness.

-Sacha Guitry

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 off’ring hope where there is pain. ”

CALL TO WORSHIP

(PLEASE JOIN IN CALL AND RESPONSE)

One: We join together today in this purple season of Lent, noticing all the purple around us. Sometimes it is so subtle we almost miss it and sometimes so obvious it is overwhelming.

Many: The soft purple reflection of sky on the newly fallen snow. The soft purple stripes mixed in with peachy pink in the morning sky.

One: The sparkly purple of a cell phone cover or the plushy purple of a little girl's boots, a pen, eyeglasses, a grape scented marker, a fluffy prayer shawl.

Many: The purple stripe in the rainbow banner, a man's special shirt, a hiker's water bottle, a winter coat, a special pair of socks.

One: During Lent, we celebrate with purple – the season when our spirits are colored by reflection and repentance.

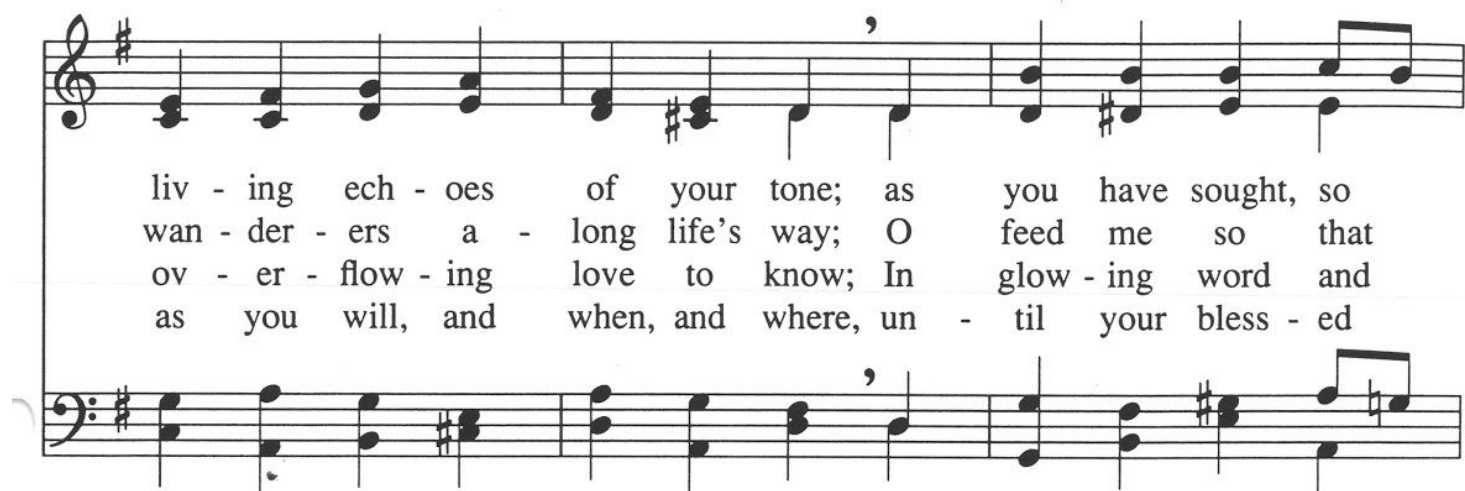
Many: In the weeks ahead, as we travel in this wilderness season together and alone, may we immerse ourselves in things purple. Welcome to this third week of Lent.

531

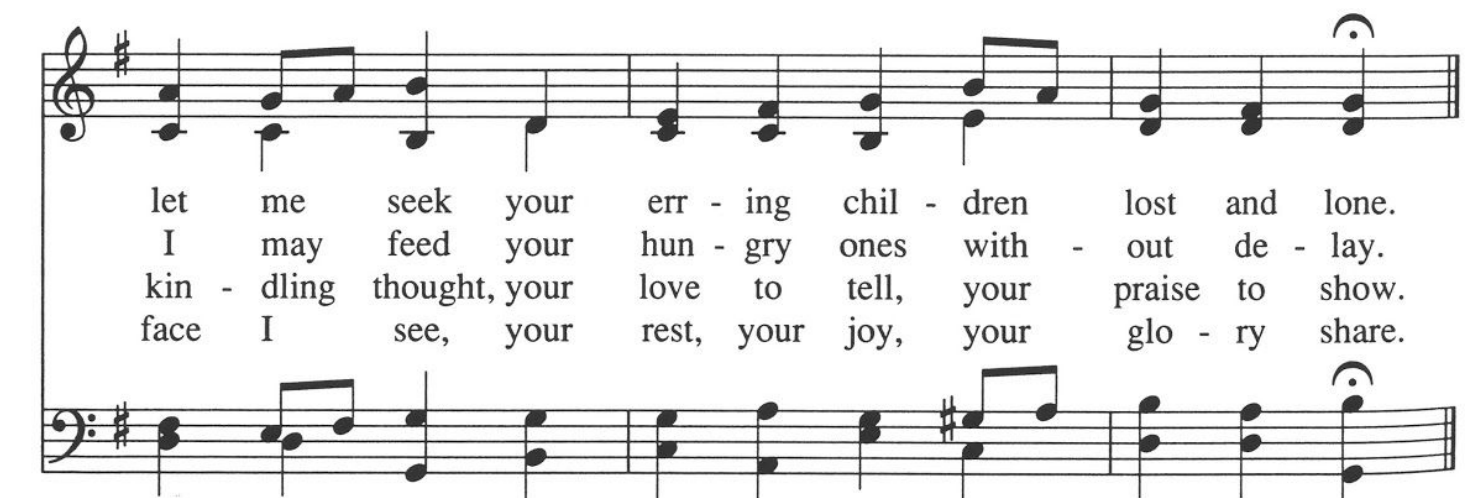
God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.


1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
 3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
 4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

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

Sam & Vocal Ensemble

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

18 For the message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation, it is the power of God. 19 Scripture says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and thwart the learning of the learned." 20 Where are the wise? Where are the scholars? Where are the philosophers of this age? Has not God turned the wisdom of this world into folly? 21 If it was God's wisdom that the world in its wisdom would not know God, it was because God wanted to save those who have faith through the foolishness of the message we preach. 22 For while the Jews call for miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, 23 here we are preaching a Messiah nailed to a cross. To the Jews this is an obstacle they cannot get over, and to the Greeks it is madness—24 but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, Christ is the power and the wisdom of God. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

REFLECTION

God's Foolishness

O God, How We Have Wandered

202

*Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt.**Luke 15:11-32; 2 Cor. 5:16-20*

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
 Com - pas - sion-ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic-ing bring,
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
 In glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

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)

Ever creating and ever renewing God, we know your love as a resource that can never be depleted. Grounding our faith in the paradox of wisdom and foolishness, we offer the whole of ourselves and the sharing of our gifts for the building up of your world. Amen.

343

Jesus Took the Bread

Matt. 26:26-28; Luke 9:16; 22:19; 24:30

Ruth Duck, 1982

Unison D A F#m Bm Em7 D/A A7

1 Je - sus took the bread, dai - ly gift of God,
 2 Je - sus blessed the bread, thanked the God of grace,
 3 Je - sus broke the bread; then he poured the wine.
 4 Je - sus gives the bread at our ta - ble still,

Bm Bm7 GM7 C Em7 A7

formed of wheat and sweat and toil, sun, rain, and sod.
 thanked the One who made all worlds, all time, all space.
 Bro - ken bod - y, life poured out, God gives as sign.
 gives the cup to those who seek God's lov - ing will.

D A Bm Em F#m GM7 A7

In our hands we take gifts of bread and wine,
 Bless - ing, hon - or, praise, all to God be - long.
 Weak, a - fraid, and lost: that is when we're healed.
 Let us go in peace; let us free - ly give,

D A F# Bm Em A7 D

gath - ered from the fields of earth, signs of love di - vine.
 Let us lift our hearts to God in a thank - ful song.
 In our hu - man bro - ken - ness: there God is re - vealed.
 shar - ing love with all the world dai - ly as we live.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Leader: Come to the table. This is the welcome table – the table of grace – the table of love. God has prepared a feast of good things, a feast of peace and justice. Come and taste. Eat and be filled. Drink deep and never thirst again. Come to the feast that God prepares – the table to which God invites us all – no matter who we are.

People: We come with a hunger for connection and a thirst for justice.

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger and all who listen to me will never be thirsty.”

People: We come in celebration and remembrance. We come knowing that it will never be in the proclamations of the governments of this world, nor in the brutality of war that our world will be saved.

Leader: It will be in the simple routines of life, such as gathering around the table, breaking the bread and sharing the cup, that we will recognize our neighbor as sister, brother, creature.

People: We are invited to this holy meal whoever we are, from wherever we are in life. We need not bring anything but ourselves.

Leader: May God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Open your hearts.

People: We open them to God and to one another.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God:

People: It is good and right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you our thanks and praise, hope-breathing, love-giving, still-speaking God. You have shaped us with infinite care, creatures of delight and passion, setting us as gifted creatures in this abundant world. It is right and good and our joy to give you thanks.

REMEMBERING THE STORY

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

One: These are the gifts of God, for you, the people of God.
Come, for all is ready.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (let us pray together)

Gracious and loving Creator, you gather us together as your beloved community, celebrating at this table of plenty. Now send us out into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal the broken, to free the imprisoned, and to make the powerful care. Grant us the strength to persevere in resisting evil, courage to proclaim peace and justice in all we say and do, and teach us always to abide in your love. Amen.

HYMN

343

343 Jesus Took the Bread vs. 4

Jesus Took the Bread

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BENEDICTION

One: Be awake and alert to the wisdom and the foolishness of God.

Many: May we choose a Lenten course that directs us on a path that leads to the God who makes room for all God's beloved.

One: May your companion on this wilderness season of Lent be a daring, brave, ever hopeful, willing to fail sustaining Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Elk River Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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: Laurie Lang

Cantor: Sam Eckberg

Announcements

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. 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.

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.

Church Materials

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

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 7th, 2021

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

11 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour

**1 p.m. Family Promise team meeting
Liturgist: Laurie Lang**

Monday, March 8th, 2021

9:30 a.m. SARI Meeting (virtual)

6:00 p.m. Lent Devotional

6:30 p.m. Trustees

Tuesday, March 9th, 2021

**7:30 a.m. Immigration Vigil at Henry
Whipple Fed Building**

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

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

Wednesday, March 10th, 2021

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

Thursday, March 11th, 2021

1:00 p.m. O&J Ministry Team

**2:00 p.m. Family Promise - Food drop
off deadline**

4 p.m. Family Promise Delivery

6 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

Sunday, March 14th, 2021

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

**11 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour
Liturgist: TBD**

Monday, March 15th, 2021

6:00 p.m. Lent Devotional

6:30 p.m. Trustees

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

Tuesday, March 16th, 2021

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

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

Wednesday, March 17th, 2021

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

Thursday, March 18th, 2021

6 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

7p.m. Diaconate Meeting