

Thank you for worshiping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.



**F**or Children: Please feel free to attend services with your children. For the safety of the children, staff and volunteers ERUCC will not be providing childcare during services until further notice. Your children are welcome to bring their own quiet activities, no materials will be provided. Please take ALL personal items with you after the service.

**W**e have removed all items from the pew racks for your safety. Music selections will be provided within this bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshiping with us. At this time we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary, Thank you.

**W**e ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

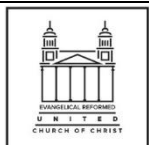
**T**here is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org).

*Donate online by scanning this code:*

*or you may use our new texting donation system. Send a donation amount to 301-804-2933 . You will receive a text back within minutes with a link. Click the secure link and provide your method of payment and a receipt will be sent to you! Or, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.*



Thank you.



**Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church**

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# EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

## United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m.

*Today is the first Sunday in Lent. Over the next six weeks, we will hear scripture passages that have formed the people of God through the centuries. Our scripture for today tells us of God's covenant with Noah and all the Earth – the first covenant recorded in the Bible. It is God's unbreakable promise; a rainbow promise.*

### Greetings and Announcements

#### Prelude

#### \*Call to Worship

When life is wonderful,

**you are there, O God.**

When life is unpredictable,

**you are there, O God.**

When our hearts are full of joy,

**you are there, O God.**

When our hearts are heavy from the cares of the world,

**you are there, O God.**

You are here with us, O God,

**in our time of worship.**

#### \*Opening Prayer

**Holy One, as we begin our Lenten journey, you remind us of why we are on this path. Help us to be like Noah, trusting you even when we cannot see, knowing you to be faithful, and following you where you lead. Amen.**

#### \*Opening Hymn *Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days*

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*See back of bulletin*

#### \*Call to Confession

Out of great love, God makes covenants with us. From the first covenant with Noah and all the Earth, to the new covenant we have in Jesus, God's promises are faithful and sure. Let us bring our confessions, trusting in God's grace and mercy.

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, you made your covenant with Noah and all the Earth – a promise that you will always keep. We acknowledge that we do not always keep our promises. It is tempting to take the easy way out, instead of doing the hard work of following you. It is tempting to live in the way of the world, instead of living lives modelled on your steadfast love for all people. It is tempting to think we have all the answers, instead of trusting in you. Forgive us for the times we give into temptation and turn away from you. Lead us in your way, O God. Amen.**

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

The waters of the flood washed the earth clean, and the waters of baptism wash us clean, too. Take your hands and run them over your head, just like water washing over you. Feel God's forgiveness and be at peace.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Thought For the Day**

### **The 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.**

### **The Scripture**

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service**

**Anthem** *O Love*

*- E. Hagenburg  
ERUCC Singers*



\*Benediction

\*Postlude

Sunday at 10:30



Every

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzioh0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

**Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:**

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9\\_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w)**

You can get to the link on our homepage at [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)

**The flowers on the altar this morning** are in thanks to the ERUCC for their support from Anne and Ken Hoffmann.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of those currently serving in the military by Felecia Bishop.

**Worship Next Week:** Ctrl + Click **HERE** to join worship Sunday 10:30 a.m.

**February 28**      **Second Sunday in Lent**

Our first scripture reading for this Second Sunday in Lent is Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16, and speaks to trust in God's promises. Abram and Sarai are childless; yet God makes a covenant, promising Abram he will be the ancestor of many nations. In Mark 8: 31-38, Jesus and his disciples are near Caesarea Philippi. For the first time, Jesus teaches that he will suffer and die.

Today we will be honoring our young people and their families involved with Scouting.

## Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

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*Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.*

*Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13*

1 Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,  
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,  
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion - tide,  
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be past,

Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.  
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.  
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.  
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

*Unflagging in her zeal for religious education of children, Claudia F. I. Hernaman wrote some 150 hymns. This one appeared in her Child's Book of Praise (1873).*

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.  
*Day's The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562*

# De colores (Sing of Colors)

*Mexican folk song*

*Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1995*

A A7 D

1 De co - lo - res, de co - lo - res se vis - ten los  
1 Sing of col - ors, sing of col - ors that o - ver the  
2 Sing, re - joic - ing! Ev - ery crea - ture that breathes raise a

Em

cam - pos en la pri - ma - ve - ra. De co -  
hills in pro - fu - sion are spring - ing; Sing of  
song to the God of cre - a - tion. Sing, re -

A7 A9 Em7 A7(#11) A7

lo - res, de co - lo - res son los pa - ja - ri - tos que vie - nen de a -  
col - ors of the birds that fly out - side my win - dow their can - ti - cles  
joic - ing! Sing to God who so ear - nest - ly cares, who has of - fered sal -

D D A7 D

fue - ra. De co - lo - res, de co -  
sing - ing; Sing of col - ors, in the  
va - tion. Sing the good news! Sing the

*This Mexican folk song is known by many Mexican-American churchgoers, and has also been popular among the United Farm Workers.*

**Tune: DE COLORES**

*Mexican folk song*

*Arr. Alfredo Morales, F.S.C.*

lo - res es el ar - co i - ris que ve - mos sa - lir, Y por  
rain - bow's bright col - ors God's prom - ise of hope we re - call; Sing of  
love of the Sav - ior re - flect - ing the col - ors of all. Man - y

e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co - lo - res me gus - tan a  
 col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who cre - at - ed us  
 col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that tell us God's love to re -

D D7 G A9 F#m7 B7

mí, Y por e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co -  
all. Sing of col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the  
call. Man - y col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that

lo - res me gus - tan a mí.  
 God who cre - at - ed us all.  
 tell us God's love to re - call.

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 21, 2021

Psalm 25:1-10

### God's Loving Paths

*Teach me your paths, O Lord, the Psalmist cries.*

Teach me your paths! These are powerful words as we take our first steps into the season of Lent.

As we enter Lent, we are invited into humility. We remember that no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey, we still have things to learn. We approach Lent as students of Christ's way. When we agree to be a student, we agree to be transformed. We agree to come out of the period of teaching different than the way we went in, aware that everything new that we learn will change us.

As we enter Lent, we look to Christ, who each year has something new to teach us.

No matter how often we have taken this journey, the Lenten path is waiting for us, and ready to teach us.

The psalm, with its plural "paths" rather than singular "path" reminds us that there is more than one way to embark on the Lenten journey. If you have always approached Lent the same way (by giving up something in particular, or by taking on something in particular, or even by doing nothing unusual at all) try a different path this year. Follow the Holy One in another way and allow yourself to be transformed.

As we enter Lent, we remember that we are never alone. We are always accompanied by The Teacher, who wants for us the renewing and transformation of our minds, hearts, and souls. So, be open to Christ's teaching, be ready to follow a new path if one appears before you.

#### **A prayer to carry with you into Lent:**

Teach us in your paths, O Lord! Guide us as we walk and instruct us as we journey. As new paths open before us, help us to follow them with curiosity and joy. Remind us that no matter the path you guide us on, you always desire to lead us in the way of new life. In your name we pray, Amen.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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