



Thank you for worshipping 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 worshipping 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**

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor ([bkdaniel@erucc.org](mailto:bkdaniel@erucc.org))

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus ([faw500@msn.com](mailto:faw500@msn.com))

Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry ([ksexton@erucc.org](mailto:ksexton@erucc.org))

Alison E. Shafer, Music Director • Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director

Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

Amy Aguilar, Office Administrator ([erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org)) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

**15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • (ph) 301-662-2762 • [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)**

# EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

## United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m.

### Greetings and Announcements

### Prelude

#### \*Call to Worship

Let us gather to worship.

**O God, we wish to see Jesus!**

**We come to worship, to pray, and learn.**

We come looking for Jesus in Scripture lessons,  
in our own life experiences,  
in helping our world,  
in prayers for each other.

**We seek to follow in the way of Jesus.**

We lay bare before God and one another  
our own wilderness journey  
filled with some gladness and hope,  
with reluctance and sorrow,  
with fear and confusion.

**O God, speak to us, show us, touch us with your presence!**

Let our Lenten journey lead us to Jesus,  
so that we may show Jesus forth  
in our lives, our faith community, and our world.

**Amen.**

#### \*Opening Prayer

God of the journey,

you invite us, the church,

“to accept the cost and joy of discipleship”

and “to be your servants in the service of others.”

In so doing, may your presence be our guide and Jesus our model.

May we respond to you in loving faithfulness. Amen

#### \*Opening Hymn *Give Me a Clean Heart*

# 188

*See back of bulletin*

### **\*Call to Confession**

We turn away from God and our neighbors with our words and actions, but God promises to remember our sin no more. Let us confess our sins, trusting in this great mercy.

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

**Ever faithful God, we are so easily led astray from your ways. We come up with excuse after excuse to follow the footsteps of culture rather than your footsteps. We turn to things like money, status, and material possessions as gods instead of you, our only God. Create in us clean hearts, and put a new and right spirit in us. Erase our sin. Restore us to the joy of your salvation. Amen.**

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

God promises to write God's ways on our heart, so that we may always know God's love. Let us rejoice in the mercy of God, know that we are forgiven, 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**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

John 12:20-33

#### **Sermon**

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **Call to Offering**

Jesus compels us to join him in service to others.

Our church accepts the invitation and challenge to show Jesus' Way using the resources we share.

Let us give as we are able to the ministries of our church.

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

**Anthem** *You Do Not Walk Alone*

*E. Hagenburg  
ERUCC Singers*

## Prayer of Dedication

**\*Closing Hymn** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

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*See back of bulletin*

## \*Benediction

Dear God. We thank you for today,  
for being with us, accepting our worship and prayers,  
and for guiding us on our way.

Bless us as we go, and in turn, may we bless others.

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## \*Postlude



**Worship Notes:** We Wish to See Jesus: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Lent “ was written by the Rev. Rosemary McCombs Maxey, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is retired clergy and a member of Fellowship Congregational United Church of Christ, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Copyright 2018, Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith Formation Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved. The prayer of confession and affirmation are from Seasons of the Spirit.



**Every Sunday at 10:30**

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bziah0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

**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 given in loving memory of my husband, Bill Stahler and our granddaughter, Liz Coffey by Peg Stahler.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in memory of Capt. Walter H. (Terry) Forbes III, USAF, KIA in Tay Hinh, Vietnam on March 21, 1971 by Tom and Evie Frazier.

## **Worship Next Week: March 25 Palm Sunday**

*Mark 11:1–11 “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”*

This week marks the beginning of the week when we tell the story that is central to our faith. It begins with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and continues with his arrest, trial, and death. Next comes the Resurrection. We will hear of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as we read from Mark 11: 1-11 and then of his passion as we read from Mark 14 and 15.

*Ps. 51:1-12**Margaret J. Douroux, 1970; alt.*

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

The first system of music features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note D5. The piano accompaniment features more complex chordal textures with some grace notes.

For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless - ings.

The third system shows the vocal line with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note D5. The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support.

Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low you.

The final system concludes the piece. The vocal line has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note D5. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord and a fermata over the last note.

## Beneath the Cross of Jesus

*Isa. 32:2; Gal. 6:14**Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872; alt.*

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I glad - ly take my stand,  
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus with - in my mind I see  
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;  
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of Christ's face;

A home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
 And from my griev - ing heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess—  
 Con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.  
 the won - ders of Christ's glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 21, 2021

Jeremiah 31:31-34

### Deep in our Hearts

God speaks through the prophet Jeremiah, proclaiming that God's law will be written on the hearts of the people. From ancient times until now, the heart has been associated with the capacity to love. To know God's way is to love. And to know God's love on the heart is to be compelled to act out of that love.

Born of a desire to tell the story of how God's love is enacted by God's people, the 3 Great Loves initiative of the United Church of Christ was introduced at General Synod 2017. You can participate by sharing stories of how God's love is shown in the actions of your congregation. The 3 Great Loves initiative has created a resource for congregational action and worship, which you can find here at: <https://www.ucc.org/3greatloves>. Among many other ideas and encouragements, the resource contains this powerful prayer written by Rev. Darrell L. Goodwin:

Creator you call us into discomfort, you call us to be stretched beyond our wildest dreams and imaginations, you call us into action not only for ourselves but for one another.

Humbly we pray: We pray for courage to dismantle the systems that have been rooted and grounded in White supremacy and exclusion.

God in your Power. We pray that our natural and spiritual eyes can be opened to the suffering in our local communities, our country, and the world; and that we are motivated to act for a just world for all.

God in your Grace. We pray for the strength to hear one another, truly see one another, and accompany one another in this journey called life.

God in your Love. We pray for vulnerability, a renewal of our common humanity, a reminder that we truly need one another to not only survive but thrive,

God in your Tenderness. We pray for a kin-dom where your Spirit is truly poured out upon all flesh, and that your children can walk in the fullness of all you have created us to be without limit.



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