



Beautiful Law

Handwritten ancient script on the left side of the stone tablet, consisting of approximately 12 lines of text.

Handwritten ancient script on the right side of the stone tablet, consisting of approximately 12 lines of text.

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



For 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.

We 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.

We 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.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: 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 -

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m.

Contemplate God's Glory

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

God's commandments are clear.

They make clear our vision and straight our paths.

Human wisdom and understanding are thwarted,

and unified in Christ's reconciling love.

All that we have been, are and will become

is through the providential work of God.

Come, let us worship the one who provides, sustains, and nurtures.

We come to worship God.

*Opening Prayer

Holy God, your light is brighter than the noonday sun, and brightens our paths in the shadows of the world. Grant us a singleness of purpose in this hour of community to put aside the things of this world and focus solely on you, that in doing so we may come to a fuller understanding of who we are and whose we are. Embrace us in your grace that we may unify our minds, hearts, and souls in recognition that you, God, have made all things for us. From the rising and setting of the sun to the bloom of the smallest flower, may we recognize your magnificent love for us in all of creation. Amen.

*Opening Hymn *O God of Earth and Altar*

582

See back of bulletin

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we come to you knowing that we fall short in doing your will. In an obsession with power and greed, we can lose sight of you and of what is truly important. There are times when we have not recognized our sin and have not cared for the vulnerable amongst us. We have made idols of all things, putting them before you. We have mistreated your creation and pillaged its resources. Forgive us and strengthen us that we may follow your commandments and walk the paths of righteousness. We ask this in the name of the one who came for the redemption of humanity, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Listen to this good news: God has provided for our every need. In Jesus the Christ, God came in love. Through Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Psalm 19

John 2:13-22

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 *Come to the Table of Grace*

*- B. Hamm
ERUCC Singers*

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table where all are made welcome.

Let none hunger or thirst in the presence of our God!

The table is prepared!

From East and West, North and South, come to the feast.

**The people of God gather in thanksgiving
and praise. Together we are made whole.**

Together we remember Christ's life, love, and promise.

Come to the table, friends. All is ready!

Communion Prayer

God of earth and stars, you breathed on the waters and brought forth life.

Like springs in the desert, you sent forth prophets and teachers filled with wisdom to wash over your people. Beside the rivers they preached. With

your word they liberated our hearts and helped us cross the divides to your promise. In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus to be our Christ, who offered the water of eternal life to all who would hear. The clear flow of your unending grace washes over us now, and we join in the river of praise and love together with angels and mortals alike:

Holy, holy, holy is the lord God of hosts! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. As the heavens bring rain to water the earth, may your love water our hearts. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God's love and mercy. Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of 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.

***Closing Hymn** *God Our Author and Creator*

530

See back of bulletin

***Benediction**

Go with boldness of heart to proclaim the goodness of our God, the sovereignty of our Savior, and the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit. May the sun shine warm upon your face, may the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again may you be held in the palm of God's hand.

***Postlude**



Every Sunday at 10:30

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzloh0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

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

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w

You can get to the link on our homepage at www.erucc.org

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed by Cliff and Ave Barr in memory of their parents Paul and Ival Barr and William and Betty Lou Cassell.

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.

March 14 Fourth Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday

Isaiah 49:8–12 articulates a stunning vision for a world of justice and equity; a world where everyone has enough, and all live in safety and abundance. It is also a vision for a world of interconnectedness. In this vision, what is good for you is also good for your neighbor; what is good for one country is good for the whole world; and what harms any one of us harms us all.

This morning we will be receiving our One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

582

O God of Earth and Altar

St. 1–2, Gilbert K. Chesterton, 1906; alt.

St. 2, alt. Jane Parker Huber, 1985

St. 3, Jane Parker Huber, 1985

1 O God of earth and al - tar, bow down and hear our cry;
2 From all that ter - ror teach - es, from lies of pen and voice,
3 A - wak - en us to ac - tion and forge us in - to one,

Our earth-ly rul - ers fal - ter, our peo - ple drift and die;
From all the eas - y speech - es that make our hearts re - joice,
de - fy - ing sect and fac - tion; O God, your will be done!

The walls of gold en - tomb us, the swords of scorn di - vide;
From val - ue's pro - fan - a - tion, from hon - or sac - ri - ficed,
Op - pres - sive sys - tems snare us; our ap - a - thies in - crease.

Take not your thun - der from us, but take a - way our pride.
From sleep and from dam - na - tion, de - liv - er us, O Christ!
Great God, in mer - cy spare us for jus - tice and for peace!

God Our Author and Creator

530

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985

Gen. 1:1-2:3; Acts 17:22-31; Rom. 12:2; John 3:16-17

Unison

1 God our Au - thor and Cre - a - tor, in whose life we find our own,
2 Like those first a - pos-tles, Sav-ior, give us strength to love and serve:
3 Keep us faith-ful, Ho-ly Spir-it, help us bear the mes-sage true,

make our dai - ly wit - ness great-er, by our lives make your love known.
when our faint-ing spir - its wa-ver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."

Help us show how love em-brac-es those whom fear and greed down-trod;
Teach us wis - dom and com-pas-sion: bid our rest - less thoughts be still;
Join our lives in might-y cho-rus till we come from ev - ery place,

in all yearn-ing hearts and fac - es let us see a child of God.
by your guid-ance help us fash-ion lives con-formed un - to your will.
with all those who went be - fore us, to the full - ness of God's grace.

Beautiful Law***Amistad Sunday / UCC Women's Week, March 7 - 13***

This week, we remember *La Amistad*. In 1839, the slave ship *La Amistad* traveled from one part of Cuba to another. The slaves on board were threatened by the cook, who said that he would kill and eat the captives. Led by Sengbe Pieh, a Mende man, the brave captives took control of the ship and demanded to be returned to Sierra Leone, their home country. Instead, they were taken further north, where the slavers hoped to encounter rescue in the form of an American ship. Another ship was indeed found, but those on board, with the help of anti-slavery activists including members of churches that preceded the United Church of Christ, were able to successfully sue for the freedom of all the people on board.

No wonder the Amistad, with the faith, courage and steadfastness shown by so many, has become a symbol of the UCC. It is fitting, too, that the Chapel at the United Church of Christ Church House at 700 Prospect Avenue in downtown Cleveland, Ohio is named for this ship and all that it represents.

Today, Amistad Chapel continues the legacy of the ship by being a place of sanctuary for all who worship there.

It is a place of marvelous beauty, inviting visitors in with delightful sounds of splashing water and the welcome of a table where all are fed. It is a place of prayer and quiet reflection in the midst of a busy downtown, and a community that gathers for worship to feed the soul. It is a place that tells a story in each design element and furnishing, which was carefully planned to tell the story of the Amistad and the captives it carried, whose struggle for freedom – “a story of faith and courage at sea” – inspired our Congregationalist forebears to stand with them in the fight against slavery.

You can find out more about Amistad Chapel by visiting in person or online at: <http://amistadchapel.org/home/>.



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

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