



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, 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))

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Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

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

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# EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

## United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m.

### Greetings and Announcements

#### Prelude

#### \*Call to Worship

God speaks to the heart,

**Offering compassion and hope.**

God enlivens the mind,

**Inviting curiosity and wonder.**

God awakens all spirits,

**Fostering sacred connection.**

God nurtures our strength,

**Creating unimagined possibilities.**

God calls the whole world,

**Inspiring extravagant love.**

#### \*Opening Prayer

**Creating Spirit,**

**we join with the chorus of all of creation**

**to celebrate your wondrous deeds.**

**Fill us with your joy and train our ears for harmony,**

**so that we may contribute to the world You are already creating.**

**All this we pray in the name of Jesus,**

**who revealed what is possible through love. Amen.**

#### \*Opening Hymn *Christians, Rise and Act Your Creed*

# 537

*See back of bulletin*

#### \*Call to Confession

#### \*Prayer of Confession

**Unwavering God, we keep asking what is it that you most want us to do with our lives in hope you might tell us something easier. Instead, You**

**offer the same answer every time: Love one another as I have loved you.**

**We confess that our love for others is not always what we hope it would be.**

**We are quick to judge and slow to offer grace.**

**We are swift to anger and resistant to make amends.**

**We are prone to suspicion and resistant to build trust.**

**We hear the greatest commandment, and if we are honest, we are filled with hesitation because it means we must change. Unwavering God, in these moments of stillness, hear our struggles with the love you call us to practice...*(Silence)***

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

Friends, hear the good news. God's love is so extravagant and inclusive that it knows no bounds. It transcends borders and speaks a universal language. Abide in that love. Find joy in that love. Be renewed by that love. Replicate that love in the world. **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**

Acts 10:44-48

John 15:9-17

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **Prayers of the People**

#### **Affirmation of the Gifts of Leadership**

*Blessing of newly elected leaders and affirmation of those who have served during the challenging days of the pandemic*

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

**Anthem** *A Home of Grace*

- J. M. Martin  
ERUCC Singers

**\*Closing Hymn** *Jesus a New Commandment Has Given Us*

# 389  
stanzas 1,2,3,4,5,6  
see insert

**\* Benediction**

Friends, imagine what is possible. Imagine what our community would feel like if our own hearts embraced the unconditional love God has for us. Imagine what the nation would sound like if our words echoed the inclusive love God has for us. Imagine what the world would look like if our actions reflected the unwavering love God has for us.

Go forth from this place, to transform possibility into reality and to join alongside God in transforming the world through love.

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

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

**Worship Notes:** Today's liturgy: Service for Easter 6 Year B is written by the Rev. Ellis Arnold. Ellis's energy for ministry in the UCC gets channeled into collaboration with people of faith who strive to transform not just the three feet around them, but also their communities and the world into a more just, generous, liberated place. Copyright 2021 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO 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 flowers on the altar this morning** are dedicated to the praise and glory of God.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of those currently serving in the military by Jack Day and Peter Brehm.

**Worship Next Week: May 16 Love Leads the Way**

In his prayer in John 17: 6-19, Jesus is sure of one thing: everything comes from God.

**LIVING JOYFULLY: Reflect, Then Step Out**  
**BECOMING A GOOD STEWARD OF YOUR TIME**  
**Zoom discussions – Sunday June 6 and June 13 at 7 p.m.**

What is your most valuable asset? Most people would say their bank fund or their property. But truly, it is your time.

What are you engaged in when you lose track of time? What activities make you feel alive? What opportunities are you drawn to? With everything you know about yourself – your gifts, skills motivations, interests – how would you like to spend your time? God is nudging you. God wants you to live fully as your unique self.

Invest an hour of your time, guided by members of the Stewardship/Generosity Team, exploring and examining how God is encouraging you to step out in faith, living joyfully. There are two opportunities to join on Zoom: Sunday, June 6 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 13 at 7 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88423175369?pwd=ZkpOTZucTFaMzhJMFB2akZEQ0hBdz09>

Meeting ID: 884 2317 5369

Passcode: 473395

For more information, please contact Jeanellen Kallevang@ [geegirl@hotmail.com](mailto:geegirl@hotmail.com)

**TUESDAYS WITH TED**

**May 11 from 6-7pm**

*Via Zoom*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92398918264?pwd=SIVFYzNKUklpczJsMElnOTdtRVdvZz09>

Meeting ID: 923 9891 8264

Password: 313735

**“The Great Migration and the power of a single decision” with Isabel Wilkerson**

Sometimes, a single decision can change the course of history. Join journalist and author Isabel Wilkerson as she tells the story of the Great Migration, the outpouring of six million African Americans from the Jim Crow South to cities in the North and West between World War I and the 1970s. This was the first time in American history that the lowest caste people signaled they had options and were willing to take them -- and the first time they had a chance to choose for themselves what they would do with their innate talents, Wilkerson explains. "These people, by their actions, were able to do what the powers that be, North and South, could not or would not do," she says. "They freed themselves."

# Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

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*Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; alt.*

1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your  
2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can  
3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's  
4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that

prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the  
help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing  
wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble  
doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of

true, raise your work and life a - new.  
light, strength - en them to do the right.  
zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.  
fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9, 2021

John 15:9-17

### **Friends Together** ***Rural Life Sunday / Mother's Day***

Church coffee hour is as important a weekly ritual as church worship. On this Rural Life Sunday, consider how your church community is intentional about making relationships with the farmers who produce the treats you enjoy each Sunday morning. Through Equal Exchange coffee, your church can celebrate its relationship with farmers every day, not just on Rural Life Sunday.

\*“Started in 2004, the UCC Fair Trade Project allows your congregation to partner with the United Church of Christ and Equal Exchange in building fair trade for small farming communities by serving fairly traded coffee, tea and cocoa, and chocolate, snacks, and olive oil for justice at fellowship hour on Sundays.

This project is a way for your congregation to join hands with communities in the developing world. As Christians we can address a consumer dilemma by buying coffee and other commodities that are fairly traded. Through the project, small farmers and their families gain more control over their lives, earn a fairer share of income, have access to credit and technical support, and gain a trading partner they can trust. Members of your congregation can learn about consumption habits that support small scale farmers and workers throughout the world and encourage careful stewardship of God's creation. At fellowship hour, you will be taking action in a spirit of love.

Through the UCC Fair Trade Project, you get access to Organic, fairly-traded products at discounted wholesale case prices, ensuring that more of the money you spend on coffee and other products reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow them.” \*(<https://equalexchange.coop/ucc>)

Find out more about how your church community can partner with Equal Exchange at <https://equalexchange.coop/ucc>.



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

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