

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

For Children: We have trained nursery staff (paid nursery attendant as well as adult volunteers) for ages 0-4. The nursery is located on the first floor outside of the Community Room. (Accessible by the stairs from the Church Street Entrance or via the elevator). Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are located in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table.



Hymn selections can be found in the black hymnals in the pew racks or printed in the 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 for offering 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 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)

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (faw500@msn.com)

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

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

Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

Tyler L. York, Office Administrator (erucc@erucc.org) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

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EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH
United Church of Christ
- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

March 20, 2022

Third Sunday in Lent

10:30 am

*All who are able may stand

Filled to the Brim: You Are Worthy

Chimes Concert at 10:00 am from Trinity Chapel's steeple

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

Threshold Moment

What I Forgot

Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree.
No fruit here, just soaking up the sun,
growing roots, turning green, stretching out my branches until
I can hug the horizon.
Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree,
because she doesn't produce, and she's not exhausted,
and she probably gets eight hours of sleep at night.
And her branches, unlike my shoulders,
are not heavy with work—pulled toward the ground,
threatening to break.
And her trunk, unlike my spine,
is not fighting to stand tall while holding it all together.
Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree
because she knows what I forgot many years ago.
You are still worthy even if you don't produce.

A Time of Silence

*Call to Worship

Come, all who are thirsty.

Come, all who are seeking.

Come, all who are waiting.

Come, all who labor.

Come, all who need rest.

Come, all who dream dreams.

Come – whether you're young or old,
confident or curious, lonely or hopeful.

This is God's house. All are welcome here.

Let us worship holy God

*Opening Prayer

**God of fig trees and foxes, of today and tomorrow,
we would like to ask that you scoop us up.**

Pick us up like a great gust of wind.

Startle us awake like a first love.

Light a fire in us like tomorrow depends on today.

Do all of this to get our attention and then turn us toward you.

We are a scattered people, God.

The world is moving faster than we can keep up.

So we pray—scoop us up.

Catch our eye. Open our ears.

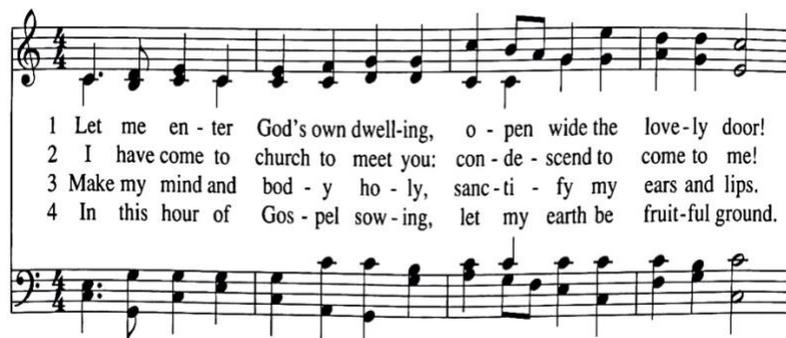
Capture our attention.

We are here. We long to be close to you. Amen.

*Opening Hymn *Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling*

#67

stanzas 1 – 4



1 Let me en - ter God's own dwell-ing, o - pen wide the love-ly door!
2 I have come to church to meet you: con - de - scend to come to me!
3 Make my mind and bod - y ho - ly, sanc - ti - fy my ears and lips.
4 In this hour of Gos - pel sow - ing, let my earth be fruit-ful ground.

Here, all earth-ly powers ex - cel - ling, God re - ceives the sick and poor.
 Anx - ious, need - y, I en - treat you, come in - side, and wel - come be—
 Lift my spir - it, poor and low - ly, all bright van - i - ties e - clipse.
 In - tel - lec - tual light be - stow - ing, raise my green faith, sweet and sound.

Joy, my heart, in this dear place: here I see God face to face.
 Here at home, with - in my breast— I, your tem - ple, rich - ly blessed.
 Take my praise, how - ev - er flawed, as an of - fering, wor - thy God.
 Let me prove a stalk of wheat, when your har - vest is com - plete.

*Call to Confession

There is something so healing, so life-giving, about telling our stories. In the prayer of confession, that is what we get to do. The mask comes off. Any pretense of perfection is removed. We let the pressure to perform slip away and we sit here, face to face with God, sharing honestly who we long to be. Friends, there is healing here. There is life to be gained here. So join me in this moment of honesty. Join me in the prayer of confession.

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we treat our self-worth like something that can be bought at a store; but you know this even better than we do. Instead of trusting that we are made good, instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are, we stockpile our value in earthly things – in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power. Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick. Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts that we won't be forgotten if we slow down. We won't be forgotten if we rest. Gratefully we pray, amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, take a deep breath. Release the tension in your jaw. There is good news here. For even when we stumble, even when we take the easy way out, even when we forget our own self-worth, even when we lose our way – we belong to God. Say it with me –

We are loved. We are claimed. We are under God's wing.
We are worthy of grace. We belong 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.

*Hymn *Come to Tend God's Garden*

#586

1 Come to tend God's gar - den, seeds of hope to sow, plant-ing fields of
2 As we tend God's gar - den, from its fur-rows rise stems of fresh be -
3 May God's gar - den flour - ish, may our toil suc - ceed, may God bless our

**Whenever this repeated figure appears in the bass,
the organist should tie the eighth notes in the bass part.*

jus - tice, watch-ing mer - cy grow! In an ar - id waste - land,
gin - nings, stretch-ing toward the skies! Gra-cious-ness, our mead - ow,
ac - tions, ev - ery word and deed! Serv-ing Christ each sea - son,

spread a ver - dant heath! In a land of tu-mult, cul - ti - vate God's peace!
joy - ful-ness, our root, u - ni-ty, our fo-liage, righ-teous-ness, our fruit!
with God's di - a - gram, chart-ed by the Spir-it, for the task at hand!

The Scripture

Isaiah 55:1-9

OT page 685

Luke 13: 1-9

NT page 77

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Morning Prayers

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

Offertory *Grace Upon Grace*

--M. McDonald
Senior Choir

*Prayer of Dedication

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

We dedicate these gifts.

For the ways it'll help us nurture caring relationships with our neighbors

We dedicate these gifts.

Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, be good fruit in the world.

*Closing Hymn *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

#23

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

*Blessing

As you leave this place, may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world. May you laugh, and may it be contagious. May you overflow with love for those around you. May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy. And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change your life. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself – go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

**Sevenfold Amen*

#814

Postlude (*please be seated*)

Today's liturgy was written by: rev. sarah speed | sanctifiedart.org | The prayer of dedication is from UCC Worship Ways for March 20, 2022 written by the Rev. Mia M. McClain.

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of my husband, Bill Stahler and our granddaughter, Liz Coffey by Peg Stahler.

The yellow rose bud is presented by Peter Brehm and Jack Day.

Attendance Last Sunday: 10 at 8:30 am, 82 at 10:30 am, and 96 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30

<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>



You 

Want to listen to the sermon again?

Visit our YouTube channel: bit.ly/erucc_youtube

Today: March 20, 2022

Liturgist: Glenn Wallace
Poetry Reader: Pam Shepp
Deacons: Joe Adkins, Matt Davis
Elder: Peter Brehm
Greeters: Tom and Rachel Ford,
Linda Coyle
Welcome: Holly Davis
Sound: Rodney Martin, Jack Day

March 27, 2022

Pam Shepp
Dan Smith
Betsy Selby, Andrew Beadle
Peter Brehm
Rob Peters, Felecia Bishop
Sue Pinner
Pat Condo
Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker

Fellowship: Larry Martin
Julie Clark
Chimers: *Saturday*: Suzanne Morris
Sunday: Tricia Coffey

Jack Day
Trinity Chapel Luncheon
Nancy Doll
Robin and David Cooney

FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Community Room following the service.

STAY INFORMED

Read our Trinity Chimes monthly newsletter for more information about ERUCC activities, opportunities, and updates. You can find the Trinity Chimes in the back of the sanctuary and online at bit.ly/MarchChimes. If you have an announcement for the bulletin, Thursday Thoughts, or Trinity Chimes, please send to erucc@erucc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week: Fourth Sunday in Lent: Prodigal Grace

The word “prodigal” is commonly used to describe the son who squanders his inheritance. Yet, this parable (Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32) invites us to consider how God’s grace is also prodigal—extravagant, lavish, illogical. This parable disrupts and expands our definitions of grace. Once again, grace is not earned. After wasting his resources, the younger son becomes destitute and returns home to his father, saying, “I am no longer worthy.” In response, his father welcomes him with a celebration and the fatted calf. The older son, in contrast, has done everything “right”—he’s tried to perform, work hard, check all the boxes—but he forgets how to celebrate. How might you receive and extend prodigal grace?

*The Senior Choir will be presenting the Cantata, “A Little Jazz Mass,” during worship.
The One Great Hour of Sharing of offering will be received this morning.*

Hospital and Prayer List – Your pastor wants to be available when members of ERUCC are in the hospital. Please let us know so that we can visit with you and your family and provide support. We always ask permission before adding a name to be included in the prayer list or in the verbal announcements on a Sunday morning. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

Prayer List - Please remember the following people in your prayers: Patti Patterson, Michael Rebo (brother-in-law of Jack Day), Robin Fenwick (mother of Owen York), Jerry Cassell (brother of Ave Barr), Katharine Alley, Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley), Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz), Mack Johnson, David Howard, Paige Coffey, Al Peden, Jane Doll, Michael Rhoads (son of Barbara Rhoads), Westin (great nephew of Sandy Gray & Danielle Carbone, Peggy Githerman, Jeannette Johnson, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Neremiah Castillo (niece of Andrew Beadle) Bonnie Devilbiss, Maria Csiba (mother of Tamara

Tamas), Betsy Fisher, James “Jimmy” Sutphin (friend of Dan Smith), The McCarty family, Nikki Keller, Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield), Ann and Cal Theiss (parents of Katharine Alley), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser).

ORDER EASTER LILIES



This year we will be filling our chancel area with beautiful Easter lilies on Easter morning. Plants will be ordered from the Dutch Plant Farm this year. You may take your plant home after the Easter Service. **The cost per plant is \$13.**

Order forms are at the back of the sanctuary or order online at bit.ly/easlily and return payment to the church office by **March 25th**.

Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults

BIBLE STUDY CLASS

Online

9:00 – 10:20 am

“The Book that Breathes New Life” with Reverends John & Rebecca Shillingburg.

To join via Zoom: bit.ly/3GEIvhJ Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888 Passcode: 327128

The Online Bible Study began a six-week study of the Prologue in Genesis (chapters 1-11) on March 6. In these texts, a small, unimportant wandering people of the Ancient Near East made an astounding claim: their God, who had no visible image to be worshipped, created the entire world ... simply by speaking. Join us for a look at how that claim has shaped us today.

LET’S TALK

9:30 – 10:15 am

Today’s Topic: Composting ABCs. Find out why ERUCC is composting and what it has to do with creation justice. We’ll share how to get started at home as well as how to sign up for a composting service. If you already compost, come share your experience and technique.

–Terry Logee, Linda Coyle, David Howard and Cliff Barr

On March 27: Landscaping for Biodiversity and Creation Justice. Learn how simple landscaping practices help our streams and rivers, why planting native plants improves biodiversity, and why what we do matters

Schillingburg

– *Rebecca*

This Week at ERUCC

MARCH ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Contact Pam Shepp for more information

How the Word is Passed by Clint Smith

March 22

Read book synopses in the March edition of the Trinity Chimes at bit.ly/MarchChimes.

Upcoming at ERUCC

CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE AN ICONIC STEEPLE LUNCHEON

Sunday, March 27

Community Room

following worship



We are initiating the Campaign to Restore an Iconic Steeple. Read more about the campaign in the March edition of the Trinity Chimes at bit.ly/MarchChimes. We will have a special luncheon presentation on Sunday, March 27, after church that will include a speaker on the project. The presentation will take place in a hybrid manner for those who cannot attend in person. A booklet describing the effort will be available during the event.

To join via Zoom: bit.ly/spirelunch

Meeting ID: 862 6821 6065

Passcode: 284197

COMMUNITY VACCINE CLINICS

Wednesdays – March 23, 30

Community Room

2:00 – 4:00 pm

ERUCC is collaborating with The Community Vaccine Coalition to help more people get vaccinated against COVID-19. It's free, safe, and no ID or insurance is required.

TUESDAY'S WITH TED

Tuesday, April 12th

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Join a group on Zoom hosted by Pastor Daniel to listen to and discuss the TED Talk by **Daniel Pink: What regret can teach you about living a good life.**

Regret is one of our most powerful emotions – and also one of the most misunderstood. Over the past two years, author Daniel H. Pink has collected a trove of more than 16,000 regrets from people in 105 countries in an effort to better understand this mysterious emotion. He shares the key patterns that emerged (it all boils down to the same four core regrets, he says) and explains how to transform your own regrets in order to create the life you've always wanted to live.

To join via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3erWnj1>

Meeting ID: 923 9891 8264

Passcode: 313735

HOW TO BE ANTI-RACIST MOVIE DISCUSSION

Watch the movie, *Moonlight*, at home and then engage in the conversation held on Zoom at 7:00 pm on April 10. If you do not have access to streaming services, call the church office to make arrangements to see the film.

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY NEXT WEEK



On March 27, dedicated gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing** (OGHS) will help fund international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. Funds are administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

Children and Youth

God's Kids Club – Lego Day

Monday, March 28

Community Room

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Bring a bag lunch, water bottle and gently used toy or book for a bingo prize. Middle or high school volunteers welcome. Please sign up by March 23: bit.ly/3LYEsAe

Youth Group

Sunday, March 27

Community Room

after church

The Youth Group will bake cookies for first responders after church as their March service project, organized by Paige Coffey.

Weekly Education Opportunities for Adults

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with Pastor Daniel

Zoom / Liz Coffey Room

11:00 – Noon

March 8 – April 12

Lent in Plain Sight

In this devotion for the season of Lent, Jill J. Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem. In each object, readers will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' final days. Each week, readers encounter a new object to consider through Scripture, prayer, and reflection.

To join via Zoom: bit.ly/3K21Hav Meeting ID: 897 6651 9688 Passcode: 357385

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY with Esther Ziegler

Trinity Chapel

7:00 pm

Freeing Jesus by Diana Butler Bass. The subtitle of the book is "Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence" and Dr. Butler Bass presents a chapter on each of those titles and descriptors used for Jesus. Participants will be expected to read about 30 to 50 pages of the book each week but the print is fairly large and generously spaced.

March 23 Chapter 6: Presence

Lent 2022 at ERUCC



Full to the Brim is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It’s an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. Lenten devotionals are available at the back of the sanctuary.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays March 23 – April 13
Service of Prayer in Trinity Chapel

Noon – 12:15 pm

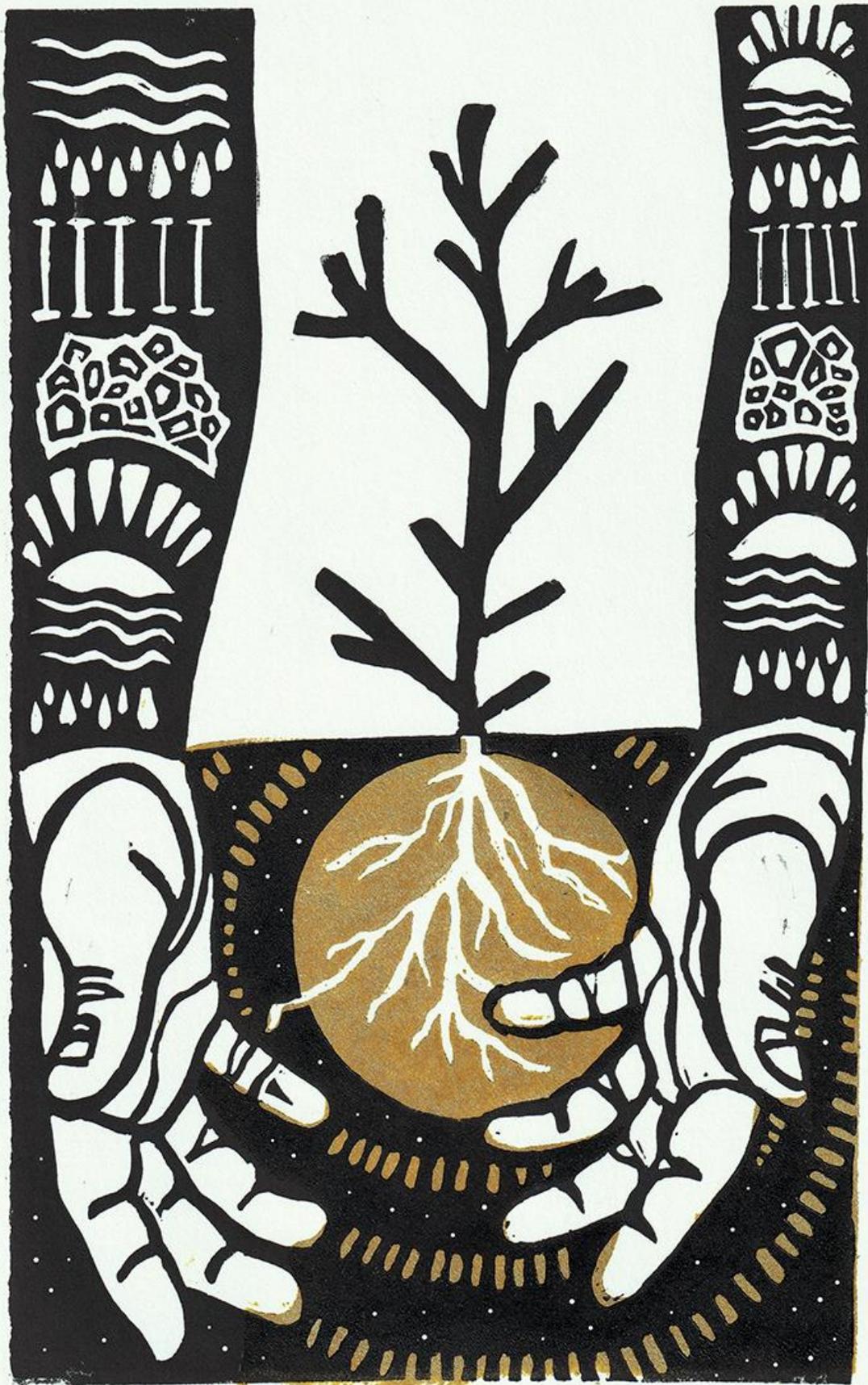
Lunch and Bible Study Reflection

12:15 – 1:00 pm

Theme: For the Beauty of the Earth

Each week during the season of Lent, a group gathers for prayer, followed by a simple soup and bread lunch, and some reflection.

Drawing on the beloved hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth,” each week of this 40-day Lenten devotional focuses on a different aspect of the splendor of nature, how God nurtures our spirit through creation, and how we must protect our precious home. Each five-minute devotional includes a scripture, reflection, and prayer. Every Wednesday, we will reflect on the previous week’s devotions. Please contact Pastor Daniel for a copy of the devotional book.



Levy

You Are Worthy

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Luke 13:1–9

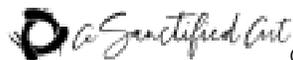
Block print with oil-based ink

How often does society wish us to feel like we are wasting soil? The whole capitalist system lurches forward, powered by our collective sense of unworthiness and our searching for worth based on what we produce. This parable upends the notion that we are what we produce, and speaks truth: you are worthy. You deserve rest and care simply for existing. What a gift!

In this image, I wanted the fig tree to look unremarkable, surrounded by the hands of the Gardener reaching down to lovingly massage the soil. The sleeves contain patterning of simplified visual references to everything a plant needs to not only survive, but to thrive. Starting close to the roots and moving upward, the patterns include water, air, sunlight, nutrients, and space. The emphasis in this image is on what is happening below the surface, in the depths of the dirt. The roots stretch toward the hands of the Gardener as the specks of dirt seem to also image the stars of the vast universe. Within us, despite what we produce, despite what can be seen at the surface, we contain multitudes. We bear the image of God, and our mere existence makes us worthy of Sabbath and the loving arms of the Gardener reaching out to provide us with everything we need.

On a personal note, the Full to the Brim theme keeps bringing me back to the image of resting while God reaches to embrace us. Lately I've spent so much time and energy fighting so hard to get some kind of tangible grasp of God, all the while feeling so empty. I'm realizing that I need to practice surrender, allowing God to find me where I am, and to receive God's care and love, filling me to the brim so I can then be full to pour out once again.

—**Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman**



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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 20, 2022

Isaiah 55:1-9

Open Invitation *Amistad Sunday*

Among the resolutions at the United Church of Christ's 2021 General Synod gathering, was a resolution declaring racism to be a public health crisis. On this Amistad Sunday, we remember the brave captives aboard a slave ship who took on the system of slavery through the legal system. Nearly two hundred years later, people of faith are still called to address the systems and institutions that perpetuate racism. Only by addressing these systems of oppression can the evil of racism be dismantled. We follow a Christ who himself took on systems and institutions that perpetuated power for a few at the expense of a marginalized many. How is your faith community living out the powerful language of this General Synod resolution? Portions of the resolution follow:

"...WHEREAS "racism is a marriage of racist policies and racist ideas that produces and normalizes racial inequities," in the words of Ibram X. Kendi.

WHEREAS without exception and across generations, racial inequities persist in every system of society—as evidenced through health care access, education, criminal justice, employment, housing, access to food and clean water, services to youth, older adults, and persons with disabilities, organizational leadership, governmental office, voting, and immigration, among many others—and thus a specific anti-racist lens is required for health equity and broader systemic change.

WHEREAS inequities based on race also intersect with other dimensions of identity—such as income, sex, gender, sexuality, citizenship and incarceration status, geographic location and housing status, ability, education, language proficiency, etc.— and thus racial justice is a necessary method from which to respond to other intersecting oppressions impacting health and equity overall.

WHEREAS public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities and environments in which they live, learn, work and play.

WHEREAS the word *crisis* comes from the ancient Greek word that means "turning point," and comes from the verb meaning "to decide"—thus connoting a call to change and action.

WHEREAS framing racism as an issue of public health rallies and compels faith communities, organizations, and the government to address the crisis through systemic change, in the same way other threats to public health have been addressed, such as through policies, practices, enforcement, education, and support services...."

"...NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares racism a public health crisis...."

You can find more of the implications and calls for action that are the result of this bold resolution here: <https://www.generalsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Racism-Public-Health.pdf>



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

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