

SCRIPTURE Exodus 5:3-21 and 1 Kings 5:13-18

SERMON "Echoes"

Rev. Luke Lindon

PRAYER (from *The Pilgrim Hymnal*, 9th Printing, 1963)

Endue thy Church, O God, with the spirit of wisdom and power in Christ,
that where others question, thy church may affirm.

Where others flee, thy Church may advance.

And where others fall, thy Church may stand.

Through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Morning Prayer

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 forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether" (vs. 1)

Red UCC Hymnal #218

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Offertory Music "The Quiet Heart" – Earl Roland Larson

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

*Doxology Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Accept, O Lord, these offerings which thy people make unto thee; and grant that the cause
to which they are devoted may prosper under thy guidance, to the glory of thy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (from *The Pilgrim Hymnal*, 9th Printing, 1963)

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ
to partake in the Holy Sacrament*

Invitation to the Table

Leader: For God so loved the world,

People: That he gave his only begotten Son,

Leader: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish,

People: But have ever lasting life.

Leader: We remember the invitation of our Savior, Christ Jesus who said,

People: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Leader: Ask and it shall be given you;

People: Seek and ye shall find.

Leader: Knock and it shall be opened unto you.

People: For everyone that asketh, receiveth;

Leader: And he that seeketh findeth;

People: And to him that knocketh, it shall be opened.

Leader: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,

**People: with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength,
And thy neighbor as thyself.**

Communion Collect

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

The Words of Institution

Giving of the Bread

Giving of the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to thee, almighty God, that thou hast refreshed us with this memorial of thy love, and hast granted to us the presence of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and we beseech thee to strengthen our faith in thee and to increase our love toward one another; through him who is our redeemer. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"What Does the Lord Require"

Red UCC Hymnal #60

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"

God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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*All who are able please stand.

PASTORAL STAFF

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JULY 7, 2019

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.

MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”

Live streaming of the Sanctuary Service is available at uccmedina.org

July 7, 2019 thru July 14, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 pm Chapel Worship
9:00 pm Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 pm Hunger Outreach
(Project Leaders only)

Mon

Tues 8:00 am Men's Fellowship
7:30 pm Women's Book Club

Wed 10:30 am Quilters

Thu Garfield Deliveries

Fri 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mark your calendars now for the annual

ALIVE ON THE SQUARE

Worship & Picnic

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH @ 10:00 a.m.

Plan to join us and bring your

Family and friends!

All are welcome!

Worship Highlights 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Exodus 5:3-21 & 1 Kings 5:13-18

“Summer in the 60s: Echoes”

Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: Flowers are donated by John & Joan Walschon in memory of John's mother, Bette Robertson.

COMMUNION

The bread being served during Communion today was baked by the loving hands of our Breadmakers' Ministry.

"And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body."

-Corinthians 10:17

50+ YEAR MEMBERS SAVE THE DATE!

If you've been a member of our church for 50 years or more, please save **Saturday September 28, 2019 from 11:30 am to 2 pm for a CELEBRATION LUNCHEON.** Invitations will be mailed out early in September.

*If you haven't yet been here for 50 years and want to help with the luncheon...put this date on your calendar and contact the office, Becky Weber, or Sue Dean.

KITCHEN BRIGADE

Our church kitchen, as our kitchen at home, is utilized by many. And this a good thing! But areas that are constantly being used occasionally need a little extra cleaning. We are hoping you can assist. Pick a month, team up with someone, and spend an hour in our kitchen. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Crossroads. For more details, please see Darlene Fazekas or Linda Turek.

**SAVE THE DATE:
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
MEDINA UCC HOMECOMING
PICNIC AT BUNKER HILL**

Gathering and Games: 4:00-5:00

Fully Catered Dinner: 5:00-6:00

The Entertainment: 6:00-7:00 or whenever

And what's the entertainment? YOU! If you have a musical talent to share, join us in a talent show/hootenanny. Cathy is available if you need an accompanist. We will make sure there are mics and speakers so everyone can be heard. Kids and amateurs are welcome! Do you play an instrument? Sing? Can you do a magic trick? Get together with a friend to work up an act or perform on your own. There's no shortage of talent in our congregation, so this will be FUN! Interested? Pam Branscome is coordinating. 440-479-6814. There will be a sign-up sheet later in the summer.

DENISON AVE. UCC IN NEED

An article in the June 2nd edition of the Plain Dealer highlighted the good mission work of the Denison Ave. United Church of Christ. They offer the Second Life Thrift shop, dance classes, meals, Bible study, most Sunday's a free community lunch after services, monthly food pantry...the list goes on. They serve about 5,000 people (1,300 families) in the area and their congregation only numbers 40! The church is looking for support to complete repairs to the exterior of the building or face \$5,000/day fine for non-compliance to a citation. According to the article (posted on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the Sanctuary) they are looking for at least \$57,000. Please give prayerful thought to donating to this need. Funds from our Mission Team budget will match donations by our congregation.

**BICENTENNIAL CHRISTMAS
ORNAMENTS**

The ornaments will be available for purchase in the church office during the week during office hours: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. The price is \$20. We will also have them for sale on the 1st Sunday of the month, from July 7th through December 1st.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Thank you to those who have signed up to host a Coffee Hour! Please consider hosting a Sunday after the 10:30 service in the future. Sign-up sheets are in the East Room. Please remember this is supposed to be a snack with coffee or punch. Doughnut holes, cheese and crackers, fresh fruit or anything you like may be served. KEEP IT SIMPLE. Thank you!

GOSPEL GALLEY

Dave Weber

FROM WORRY TO JOY (From *The Upper Room*)

Jesus said, "I've said these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world." John 16: 33 (CEB)

During my afternoon walks, I enjoy listening to the birds sing, watching the trees sway, and hearing the buzz of activity. However, on this afternoon, the rain poured and my eyes were focused downward on the road. I had never noticed the cracks in the road or the occasional pothole. I felt I needed to watch my every step for fear of stumbling. Then my neighbor Mark drove up and rolled down his window. With just a few words from my neighbor, I no longer thought about the obstacles in my path. Instead, my thoughts were of Mark's kindness.

Sometimes stress and the troubles of life are like the rain, keeping us from looking up and seeing God's blessings. Instead we only focus on our problems.

Maybe today we can share a kind word and help someone look up from their difficulties to find joy and peace in God.

Prayer: Dear God, when we are burdened with the stress of this world, help us to realize that you are the great Comforter. Amen.

Bicentennial Tidbits - 1993

Here are some things that happened in 1993, according to the annual report from that year:

- Some 138 members were installed as “life diaconate members.” Exactly what that meant is not immediately clear, but it appears to have been a way of honoring the most active members of the congregation. Lists of these members and the fact that some new ones were installed were included in subsequent annual reports, but only for another three years.
- In November there was a reenactment of a 1600 thanksgiving worship service, which included costumes, a beadle (a high church official who carried a long pole used to first tickle with a feather, or if need be hit with a wooden ball anyone falling to sleep during the sermon), drummers, with hymns lined out by a precenter.
- The youth adopted 3 whales.



The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday's *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am
Please submit articles to the church office at office@uccmedina.org
*******CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY*******

2 Kings 5:1-14

Surprising Prophets

There once was a young woman who realized alcohol had become a problem in her life, and so she began to attend twelve step recovery meetings. There she found the courage and community she needed to get sober and healthy. But it wasn't always an easy path. In the early days, she explained to a sponsor at an AA meeting that she was getting stuck on her recovery every weekend when she washed her car, because she was accustomed to washing the car while drinking a beer.

"What am I supposed to do?" the young woman asked earnestly, expecting a wordy and complicated answer.

"Get an iced tea."

"What? I can't just drink iced tea instead! This is a serious problem!" The young woman protested. Surely there was something long and boring to read, an expensive workshop to attend, perhaps a complicated extra step devised just for her.

"If my idea was hard, would you do it? Just get the tea."

This is a human problem, not a modern one. People told this story way before we drank iced tea. Eons ago, there was this guy named Naaman who had a pretty good life. He was an advisor to the king on the winning side of a war. The only thing that bugged him was this terrible rash he had all over his body. A slave girl in his house, a prisoner of war from the enemy side, suggested he go visit the prophet from her side, the enemy side. It took some doing, but finally he heard from the great prophet himself. This was the message:

"Go and dip in the Jordan River seven times and you will be healed."

The Jordan River is little, muddy and unimpressive. Naaman was offended.

"Why should I bathe in this little stream? The rivers in my country are much grander than this one!"

He was about to storm off in a huff, when his advisors stopped him.

"Look, man, if it was difficult, wouldn't you do it? Just try."

He tried it. And he was healed.*

Are you looking for a complicated or expensive answer to each of life's simple problems? Maybe you are looking too hard. Maybe God's grace is right here, right now, waiting for you. Maybe the healing you seek is as simple as taking one step at a time into the river of life that is flowing right now past your door. Just this once, try this. Try immersing yourself in the powerful simplicity of God's healing grace.

**This story is adapted from "Swim, Ride, Run, Breathe: How I Lost a Triathlon and Caught My Breath", by Jennifer Garrison Brownell, published by The Pilgrim Press, 2015.*