



MERIDIAN STONE
1862
LONGITUDE 84° 52' W
LATITUDE 41° 6' N
ALTITUDE 1092 FEET
MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The
ROCK
MAY 3, 2020

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559

www.uccmedina.org



*****Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher*****

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

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

PRELUDE “How Can I Keep from Singing?” – arr. Barbara Boertje Cathy Fafrak, pianist

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Take a moment to think about the people who sit beside, behind, and in front of you in church. Connect with them by phone, email, or text to pass the peace of Christ and offer support and encouragement. Write “Peace” on our Facebook live or turn to someone in your house and offer peace.

VISIONING PRAYER

by Sharon Alberson

God, help us to be welcoming. God, help us to be loving.
God, help us to see that serving you can lead us to
A place full of grace with no limits where we can be free...
To open our hands, welcoming. To open our hearts, loving.
To be more than church on Sunday, to live in the light from above;
To celebrate in service and love.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Reverie by Gerhard E. Frost, *Seasons of a Lifetime*, page 134)

Leader: If we have set up idols and longed for an easier gospel,

People: **A lighter cross, or a less demanding savior,**

Leader: Then turn our eyes and avert our longing

People: **From what we want to choose**

Leader: To the one who has chosen us.

Verse 1

Where do I turn,
When there's no one else to turn to?
Who do I talk to, When no one wants to listen?
Who do I lean on,
When there's no foundation stable?
I go to the Rock,
I know He's able, I know He's able.

Chorus

***I go to the rock of my salvation
I go to the stone that the builders rejected
I run to the mountain,
And the mountain stands by me.
When the earth all around is sinking sand
On Christ the solid rock I stand
When I need a shelter, When I need a friend,
I go to the Rock.***

Verse 2

Where do I hide,
When the storms of life are pressing?
Where do I run to,
When the winds of sorrow blow?
Is there a refuge, In the time of tribulation?
I go to the Rock,
I know He's able, I know He's able.

Repeat Chorus (2x)

Soon and very soon,
We are goin to see the King.
Soon and very soon,
We are goin to see the King.
Soon and very soon,
We are goin to see the King.
Halleluia, Halleluia,
We are goin to see the King.

No more crying there,
We are goin to see the King
No more crying there,
We are goin to see the King
No more crying there,
We are goin to see the King
Halleluia, Halleluia,
We are goin to see the King.

Repeat Chorus

*CCLI Song # 19966
© 1977 New Spring*

*CCLI Song # 11249
© 1971 Bud John Songs, Inc.*

CONFESSION

Jesus, Our Christ. Our Rock and our Redeemer. We confess to you that we have built our houses of sand. We are sinking in the false houses of partisan politics; doctrinal purity; economic ideologies; Idolatry of liturgy and routine; and other ways we insulate ourselves from our neighbor's need, and hide ourselves from you. May we take off our shoes, and be truly present to your presence. For wherever we are.... Is holy ground. In your many names we pray, amen.

HYMN

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner-stone,
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, to - day!
 chos - en of our God and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one;
 With your con - stant, lov - ing kind - ness hear your peo - ple as they pray.
 Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Give your full - est ben - e - dic - tion: grace to fol - low Christ the Way.

The hymn has its origins in an early Latin poem, Urbs beata Jerusalem, based on passages from Ephesians, 1 Peter, and Revelation. "Holy Zion" refers to the church transcendent, built of "living stones"—the saints of God.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Henry T. Smart, 1867
 Alternate tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY

SCRIPTURE Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 and 1 Peter 2:2-10

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stacie Yates

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE "How Beautiful" – Twila Paris; choral setting by Lloyd Larson
The "Pandemic Quintet"

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

- Invitation to the Table
- The Words of Institution
- Virtual Communion
- Prayer of Thanksgiving

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

Having received freely from God, we now respond with our own offering. Thank you for continuing to financially support the work and mission of the church! You can give in many ways of your time, talent and treasure. You can send your offering via mail or online at www.uccmedina.org/give. You can also give of your time and talent of writing and calling one another to strengthen the ties that bind. Let us now reflect in this time of silence of what we will offer to God and our neighbor.

***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 (From Jean Buckwell, Sylvania UCC, 2-21-2016 reflection)

Creative Source, I love you. May my heart accept your love. Forgive the wanderings of my mind and the fears of what may transpire if I put all my trust in you. Help me be open and loving to those who think and act differently. Keep me focused on following Your way without succumbing to my egoistic needs. Thank you for this community of faith and those that journey with me. May we be forever grateful for your love and guidance. Amen

BENEDICTION (Matthew 13:52)

Leader: Your ways we can trust.

People: Thank you for providing us meaningful rituals.

Leader: Thank you for providing us new ways to do our traditions.

People: For the kingdom of heaven is like a householder how brings out of his treasure things new and old.

Leader: Help us walk your narrow path. Lead us from death to life,

People: From falsehood to truth,

Leader: from despair to hope,

People: from fear to trust,

Leader: from the shifting sand of the short-term plan,

People: to the rock of your eternal vision.

Leader: Praise be to you, our God-in-three and Three-in-One.

People: Now and forever. Amen!

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.**

POSTLUDE

"Built on a Rock" – arr. Gilbert M. Martin

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

Participating in the service

Rev. Luke Lindon, Sr. Pastor
Rev. Pam Branscome
Rev. Harry Buch
Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education
Jim Kiser, Director of Music
Cathy Fafrak, Organist

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister – email: luke@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager – email: office@uccmedina.org
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager – email: financial@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education
Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth
Jim Kiser, Director of Music
Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Xanthe Phillips, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MAY 3, 2020

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

May 3, 2020 thru May 10, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun You may give online or mail in your offering
10:30 am WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

GO TO: www.uccmedina.org/live

Mon

Tues Tuesdays & Thursdays
11:00 am Children's Bible Study
Join us via facebook livestream @
<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

2:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays
@ 2:00 Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @
<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

Wed

Thurs Tuesdays & Thursdays
11:00 am Children's Bible Study
Join us via facebook livestream @
<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

2:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays
@ 2:00 Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @
<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

Fri

Sat

Sun **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**
You may give online or mail in your offering
10:30 am WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

GO TO: www.uccmedina.org/live

Worship Highlights: 10:30 Live Stream Only

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 and 1 Peter 2:2-10

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given this week by Alan Parkhurst in honor of all those who are sheltering in place.

COMMUNION

Please have your communion elements ready at your table at home. Whatever you have on hand, we will be guided through communion together.

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

- Corinthians 10:17

WANTED: PHOTOS WITH MOM

In our Mother's Day live stream on 5/10, we'd like to do a slideshow of photos of church members with their moms (or aunts, grandmas, or another "mother figure" in your life as we honor the Divine Feminine). If you're a mom, a photo with your kid(s) is welcome too. Please send it via email to office@uccmedina.org or Facebook message to Pastor Luke.

ANNUAL REPORTS

ANNUAL MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED

However ...I still need to put together the annual report and your reports are now due. I am only missing a couple.

Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office.

Please email to: office@uccmedina.org or uccoffice@zoominternet.net.

IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION AND UPDATES!

CANCELLATIONS: ALL CHURCH IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Join us for Live Stream at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mornings <https://www.uccmedina.org/live>

2:00 pm Bible Study – Join us on Facebook for live streaming on Tuesdays & Thursdays at
2:00 pm <https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

We will also provide a Children's Bible Study "A Journey Through the Bible" on Facebook Live every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00 am <https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

Please check out Facebook, the church website or call the church office for further updates as things unfold in this time of uncertainty.

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/> *** www.uccmedina.org *** 330-725-4559

***** NEW ALL CHURCH EMAILS *****

WE WOULD LIKE TO BE SURE WE CAN REACH YOU ALL WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

This email was sent out on Tuesday, April 14th. If you did not receive the email, please check your spam folder or junk mail folder. If it is in there, please make sure that you have your email set to accept emails from uccmedina.org domain. You must add us to your "Allow Sender" List. Also, if you did not get the email and would like to, please send your email to the church office. If you need to change an email, please notify the church office. We hope to implement this in the very near future for church updates.

MAY / JUNE "UPPER ROOM" IS IN

Just to let you know, we now have the new Upper Room booklets for May & June. Since we are not worshipping in the building right now, no one has been here to get one. If you would like your copy, you can either stop in and grab one during office hours, or if you are "quarantined" or are not allowed visitors and you would like your copy just call the church office and we can mail you your copy. As always, there is a limited amount of copies, so they will be first come (call), first served!



The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

We will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st, 2020.

“Pestilence, Public Forums & Passion” – (Part 2 of 3)

What is “The Mercy Seat”? The Bible Dictionary defines “The Mercy-seat” as the actual physical lid of the Ark of the Covenant that held a solid plate of gold. Atop, two golden angels knelt face to face, with outstretched wings – the cherubim of judgment. This plate represented the throne of God, where he would come down from heaven to sit, hear prayers, and speak words of comfort. In David’s time, the TABERNACLE was a tent, with a divider veil...the Holy of Holies, where the Ark sat hidden from view by the general populace. The Mercy Seat protected man from the judgment of God. Each year on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies to sacrifice unblemished animals, and sprinkle their blood over the Throne of God in atonement for the sins of God’s people, thus washing away man’s sin and guilt, and the curse of the law which had no effect. In the Old Testament book of 1 Chronicles 21, King David makes an extremely poor decision of taking a “census” of all soldiers in his Israeli troops. David was gearing up for war against the Philistines. God is so displeased with David’s actions, and of Israel not recognizing that their strength was not dependent on numbers, but was in a name – His name, the Lord God. David had denied his own trust in God, and relied on how many his troops numbered. David’s action brought down a horrific plague (pestilence) upon Israel, that killed 70,000 people (70,000 = close to 1/4 of Medina County’s current population). 1 Chronicles 21:17 relates that David, in remorseful distress, asks God, “Why so many had to suffer as a result of his (David’s) own transgression?” God responds by telling the angel of the Lord to command Gad (royal seer prophet) to tell David to erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. David does so, and many years later David’s successor, Solomon (Passion for God), builds the first stone Temple for the (Ark) Throne of God – His Mercy Seat to reside in. The Mercy Seat foreshadows the Lord Jesus Christ.

**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*******

Powerful Witness

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

The Eternal is my shepherd, He cares for me
always.
He provides me rest in rich, green fields
beside streams of refreshing water.
He soothes my fears;
He makes me whole again,
steering me off worn, hard paths
to roads where truth and righteousness
echo His name.
Even in the unending shadows of death's
darkness,
I am not overcome by fear.
Because You are with me in those dark
moments,
near with Your protection and guidance,
I am comforted.
You spread out a table before me,
provisions in the midst of attack from my
enemies;
You care for all my needs, anointing my head
with soothing, fragrant oil,
filling my cup again and again with Your
grace.
Certainly Your faithful protection and loving
provision will pursue me
where I go, always, everywhere.
I will always be with the Eternal,
in Your house forever.

Here are two versions of the familiar 23rd Psalm – one the King James version and one from a newer translation called *The Voice* (Ecclesia Bible Society. Published Apr 9, 2012). Which version speaks to you today?