

May 24, 2020

Online Worship 10:30 a.m.

Memorial Day

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559
www.uccmedina.org Email: office@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 “This Is My Song” – arr. Laura Bergquist 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 (inspired by Matthew 4:19, Mark 1:16-20, Luke 5:1-11. From the **On Earth Peace** website.

<http://www.onearthpeace.org/>)

Leader: The invitation is given to every person by Jesus Christ:
"Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"

People: **We come to this place, to this time, at the invitation of Jesus Christ.**

Leader: In the name of Christ,

People: **we accept the invitation to discipleship.**

Leader: In the name of Christ,

People: **as his disciples, we worship and praise God.**

Leader: In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds,

People: **we proclaim the God of Compassion.**

Leader: In the midst of despair that threatens to swallow up whole lives, whole peoples

People: **we proclaim the God of Hope.**

Leader: In the midst of indifference and apathy,

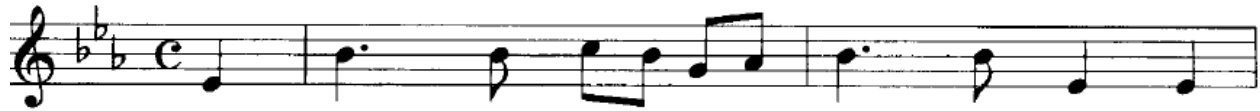
People: we proclaim the God of Love.

Leader: Come, let us worship together

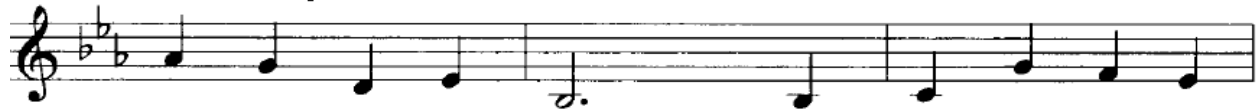
People: and share our witness of God's living presence in the world.

OPENING HYMN

"Come Soon the Day" (vs. 1, 2 & 6)



1. Come soon, the day, when peace shall reign And
2. Come soon, the day, when Christ the King Will
3. Come soon, the day, when love is crowned And
4. Come soon, the tri - umph of the Lamb Who
5. Come soon, e - ter - nal day of peace May
6. Come, peace of Christ to fill our hearts And



nat - ions fight no more. When spears are turned to
rule in all the earth. When nat - ions live be -
sin at last cast down. When faith - ful hearts can
bears the wounds of love. The Lord of lords and
hate and war be gone. Let just - ice flow and
make our spir - its bold. A peace, not as this



prun - ing hooks. And love dis - plac - es hate - ful looks When
neath his law. To glo - ry in their strength no more And
rest in peace. And batt - les of the soul will cease When
King of kings. He comes, and in his vict - ory brings All
love a - bound. When men and wom - en gath - er round The
dark world gives, The peace of Christ, for Je - sus lives And



none shall train for war. When none shall train for war.
dwell in love and peace. And dwell in love and peace.
Christ at last ap - pears. When Christ at last ap - pears.
those who love his name. All those who love his name.
Lamb up - on the throne. The Lamb up - on the throne.
fills our hearts with love. And fills our hearts with love.

COME SOON THE DAY
A New Hymn for Remembrance Day
by Louis Kinsey © Jocky Music, 2013

REPTON
86 886 with repeat

REMEMBRANCE PRAYER

Leader: We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives,

People: in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been taken away.

Leader: For the people who love them in death as in life.

People: For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day,

Leader: remembering family, friends

People: and all who pray for their safe return.

Leader: We pray for the wounded and the disturbed,

People: the grieving and the homeless,

Leader: and for all who suffer due to war and conflict.

Leader: For women, and children and men

People: whose lives are disfigured by war and violence.

Leader: For peace-makers and peace-keepers,

People: Who seek to keep this world secure and safe.

Leader: For those known to us who need healing now.....

Leader: God of truth and justice

People: hear our prayers for all who strive for peace, and all who yearn for justice.

Leader: Help us, who today remember the cost of war,

People: to work for a better tomorrow;

Leader: and as we honor the past,

People: may we put our faith in your coming kin-dom. Amen.

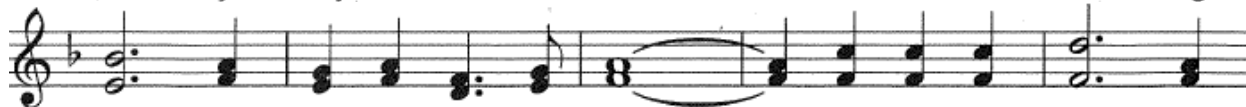
HYMN OF PRAISE

"This Is My Song"

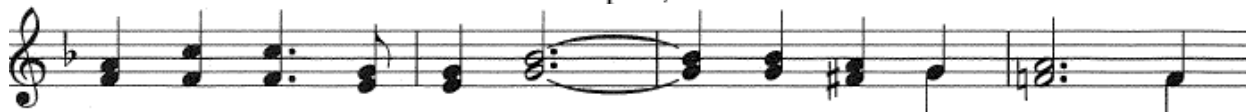
Lloyd Stone, 1934



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun-light



peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have



coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
 where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the
 beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Finlandia is derived from a "tone poem" of the same name by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.
 Jean Sibelius, 1899
 Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933

SCRIPTURE Luke 24:44-53

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer (Video)

SPECIAL MUSIC "Dona Nobis Pacem" – arr. Hal Hopson

The Covid Chorus

SERMON "The White Table"

Rev. Luke Lindon

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 (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication (written by Written by John van de Laar, and posted on Sacredise.com.)

**Lead us, O God, in another way,
the way of true security, true wealth,
the way of Christ, the servant,
the way of weakness and simplicity.
Lead us, O God, in another way,
the way of caring for the neglected,
feeding the hungry and housing the homeless,
protecting the threatened and challenging the powerful,
the foolish way of the Gospel,
that brings salvation to all. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the peace of Christ

People: Reign in our hearts,

Leader: May the unity of the Spirit

People: abide within and among us,

Leader: And may the Creator of All,

People: Bless us with a peace that surpasses all understanding.

Leader: This day, and all days.

People: 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

"Meditation on *America*" – Janet Linker

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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Participating in the service

Rev. Luke Lindon, Sr. Pastor

Rev. Pam Branscome

Rev. Harry Buch

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education

Jim Kiser, Director of Music

Matt Yates, Sound & Video Operator

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
Joe DeSario, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MAY 24, 2020

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

May 24, 2020 thru May 31, 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 Church office closed in observance of
MEMORIAL DAY**

Tues

**Wed 2:00 pm Zoom Book Study
“Unbinding Christianity”**

Contact Pastor Luke or the Church Office for
a link to connect to the meeting

Thurs

Fri

Sat

**Sun PENTECOST SUNDAY
STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

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

Scripture: Luke 24:44-53

Sermon: “The White Table”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given this
week by Jan Coleman in honor of Memorial Day.

HOORAY FOR ALL OUR GRADUATES!

High school and college graduations have gone
virtual this spring. Please consider sending a
note of congratulations to our church grads to
brighten their spirits as they experience this
milestone from home! You can email or call the
church office for the names and addresses.
office@uccmedina.org / 330-725-4559



SPECIAL OFFERING

The Strengthen the
Church Special Offering
supports the expansion
and growth of UCC local congregations.
**It will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May
31, 2020.**

As God calls our congregation to be the church in
new ways, your generosity will plant new
churches, awaken new initiatives in existing
churches, and develop the spiritual life of our
youth and young adults in our quest for a just
world for all. Because of your gift, we all grow
stronger. Thank you.

NEW ZOOM BOOK STUDY

Join Pastor Luke for a ZOOM book study session! The Book: “Unbinding Christianity”
Choosing the values of Jesus over the beliefs of the church.

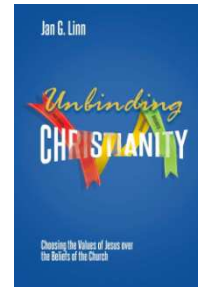
It's by his friend and mentor, the Rev. Jan G. Linn.

Why? Let's discuss a more open-handed way of approaching our faith. What would church look like if we focused not on what you believe, but on how we live like Christ?

When? Wednesday's at 2 p.m. **starting May 27th** – July 29th and going chapter by chapter.

Interested? The send an email to Luke letting him know you want the Zoom link!
luke@uccmedina.org (Facebook messages, tweets, and texts also will be accepted)

Can't make the time? We'll have a recorded archive at your request.



FREE WASHABLE FACE MASKS AVAILABLE

Sue Dean has been making washable face masks. If anyone is in need of a face mask, (one/ two...or whatever) she would be happy to give them away to anyone who needs them. They will deliver them or bring them to the church for anyone who wants to pick them up. Please contact the church office or Sue directly. Sue & Ken Dean are listed in the church directory.

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!

*** NEW ALL CHURCH EMAILS ***

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

We sent an all church email 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.

What's Next??? As we all try to grapple with how much our lives have changed, the one question on everyone's mind is "what's next"? What does life look like in the coming months and possibly years? Will we ever hold hands again at the end of our Church service? Will we be able to visit our friends and family in their senior living facility? How long do we have to wear masks? Will we ever hug or shake hands with anyone we don't live with? I think there is more anxiety around "what's next" than there is with what is actually happening. No one knows the answers to those questions – we will just have to wait and see. As we have been focusing on Acts, I can't help but think about the disciples asking the same question – "what's next"? How long did they stand there staring at the sky after Jesus ascended? When they finally decided he was truly gone what was their first thought? I'm going to guess it was something like "ummmm, is he coming back" followed by "What do we do now"? Jesus had just commissioned them with an extraordinary task – to go out and teach his message to the rest of the world. There wasn't an implementation plan, clear direction or measurable goals. Jesus had also promised he would not leave them orphans and that he would come to them. I'm sure there were a lot of questions about how, where, when, as whom, etc. Eventually the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and things made sense. As we move into the days between Ascension and Pentecost I can feel some of unease and anxiety they felt. What will the future bring? What will the world be like? How different will everything be now?

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*******

John 17:1-11

Spirit of Witness

This is Memorial Day weekend. You may remember that Memorial Day began as a day called Decoration Day. On Decoration Day, in decades and centuries past, beginning officially with the civil war, but probably going much further back than that, the graves of soldiers who'd perished in combat were covered in wreaths and flowers by their loved ones.

Our God is with us when we mourn, and it is God who places within each of us the resurrection hope that we so need. God did not steal the lives of those soldiers who perished in battle. But God placed within each of us, all of us, the desire to respond to loss with life and love. It is maybe the most remarkable aspect of our humanity that we have the ability to look tragedy in the face and say, "No. You, death, you loss, do not have the last word." And so we decorate graves with blossoms.

"In St. Louis, the pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church, the Rev. Truman Douglass, had started a Bible Study where he and other men spent their time studying Christian Unity. Rev. Douglass invited a friend of his, the Dean of Eden Seminary, Rev. Dr. S.D. Press. Douglass was a Congregational Christian, Press a leader in the Evangelical and Reform Church, but in the parlor of Pilgrim Congregational, they began to see themselves simply as Christians committed to the unity of Christ's body.

In the midst of a society committed to division -- hardening divisions between the races, growing divisions between generations, and deep distrust between denominations -- they began to imagine a path toward greater Christian unity. It was out of these Bible studies that Dr. Press and Rev. Douglass began to dream of the United Church of Christ. And it was because of their dedication and commitment to Christian unity that the denomination we know and love as the United Church of Christ was formed in 1957."*

On this Decoration Day, we remember all who have died in wartime. And on this Decoration Day, we give thanks for the United Church of Christ, a flower that grew from the graves of tragedy, a blossom that signaled "no" to violence, division and death.

*Connelly, Rev. Tyler. "Dream Christ's Dream: Sermon by Rev. Tyler Connelly for the Central Pacific Conference Annual Gathering 2019."

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/c1fafb9f89ecab71fod3f77c3/files/16ed7c36-26bc-4d2d-a4ea-806392ccc783/SERMON_Dream_Christ's_Dream_Tyler_Connoley_2019_09_29.pdf.

Accessed 10/29/19.