

The
Pharisee
And
The TAX
colector



PARABLES

LENT 2024



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

- *During the 10:30 service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8th grade*

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

Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “Aria, Op. 51” – Flor Peeters

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Gather Us In”

Marty Haugen, b. 1950

GATHER US IN Irr.
© 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.



1. Here	in	this	place		new	light	is	stream - ing,
2. We	are	the	young—	our	lives	are	a	mys - t'ry,
3. Here	we	will	take	the	wine	and	the	wa - ter,
4. Not	in	the	dark	of	build - ings	con -	fin -	ing,



Now	is	the	dark - ness	van - ished	a - way,	
We	are	the	old—	who	yearn	for
Here	we	will	take	the	bread	of
Not	in	some	heav - en,	light - years	a - way,	But



See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



Brought here to you in the light of this day.
 Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 Now is the King - dom, now is the day.



Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,
 Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,
 Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;
 Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;
 Give us to eat the bread that is you;
 Gath - er us in and make us your own;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
 Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 Gath - er us in— all peo - ples to - geth - er,



We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 Give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The parables of Jesus are meant to challenge us.

We turn them like kaleidoscopes, and a new angle is revealed.

None of us are pharisees or tax collectors, but we might see ourselves in them.

If you feel prompted to say "ouch," it just means that you found the point.

Come, let us worship in humility.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Just As I Am, I Come"

Chancel Choir

text, Charlotte Elliot; arr. Mary McDonald

SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:9-14 (N.T. pg. 76)

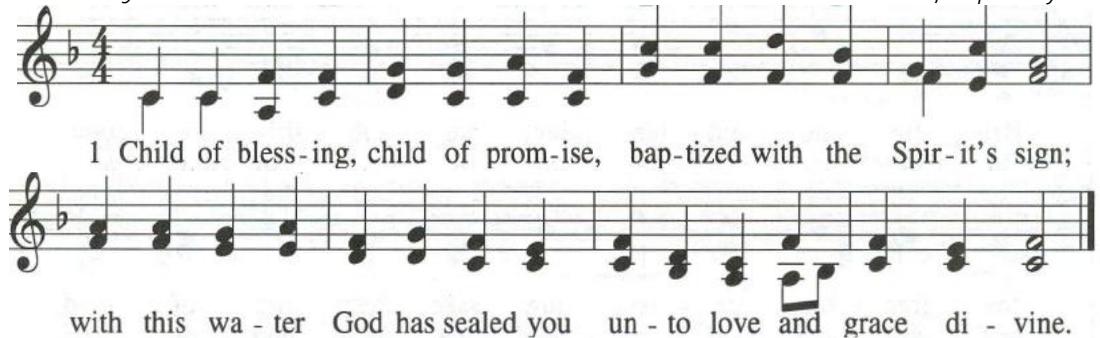
Nick North, Liturgist

BAPTISM OF SOPHIA HOPE STORCH

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

Ronald S. Cole-Turner © 1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner

STUTT GART 8.7.8.7.
Attr. Christian F. Witt; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett



1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;
with this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.

Question to the Congregation

I commend to your love **Sophia Hope Storch** whom we receive as a child in the family of God.

Through your lives and example, will you support these parents in their desire to guide **Sophia** in the knowledge and love of God and of our savior Jesus Christ?

In joyful response to God's grace, we promise our love, our support and our care.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SERMON

"The Pharisee and the Tax Collector"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

REFLECTION HYMN

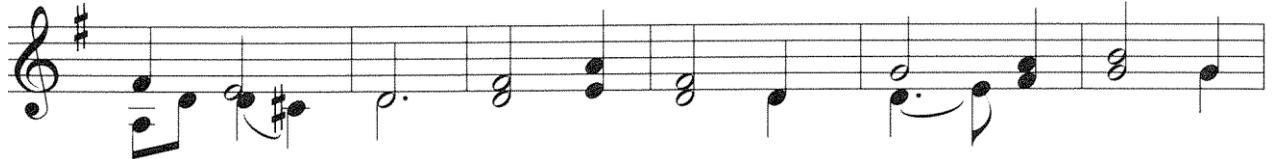
"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Latin Hymn (7th cen); tr. John Mason Neale, alt.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry Purcell, c. 1680; adapt. Ernest Hawkins, 1842



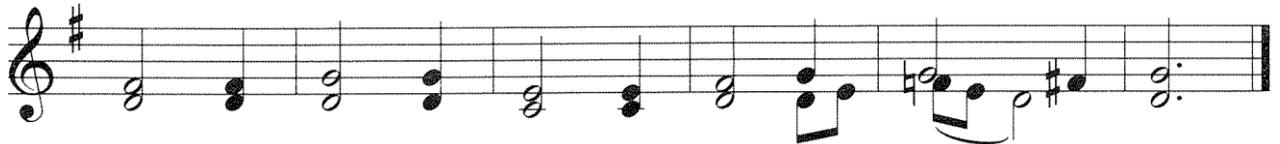
1. Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
2. To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3. Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they ask of



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
Hosts, to - day; with your faith - ful lov - ing kind - ness
you to gain, what they gain from you for - ev - er



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray, and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter



help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

There is an offering plate if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or get the link to give by texting UCCMEDINA to 73256. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Offertory Invitation

We bring together our gifts and our offerings as a sign of our shared commitment to each other. With humility we give what we can and receive what we need from the love that binds us all together. Please rise in body or spirit as we sing.

***Doxology** (words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)

Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.

***Dedication**

Holy One, in whatever ways we have set ourselves apart from others, remind us that we are one part of the whole family of God. Bring us back to each other, no one more or less valuable than another, with the courage to seek to understand. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

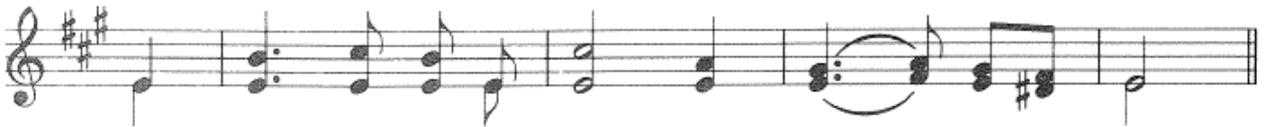
"I Need You Every Hour"

Annie S. Hawks, 1872; alt. Refrain added by Robert Lowry, 1872, alt. © 1992 words alt Pilgrim Press

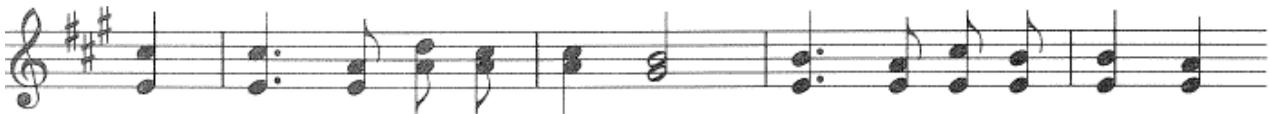
NEED 6.4.6.4. w/ refrain
Robert Lowry, 1872



1 I need you ev - ery hour, O God of grace;
2 I need you ev - ery hour, in faith or fear;
3 I need you ev - ery hour, in joy or pain;
4 I need you ev - ery hour; teach me your will,



the peace your voice af - fords, I now em - brace.
temp - ta - tions lose their power when you are near.
come quick - ly and a - bide or life is vain.
and your rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.



I need you, how I need you! Ev - ery hour I need you;



O bless me now, my Sav - ior; I come to you.

***BENEDICTION**

As we go from this place, I pray that God will save us from the things that we assume about each other.

God, save us from believing we've got no room to grow.

It's easy to think we have it all figured out.

It's not easy to acknowledge how our assumptions drive us apart.

Beloved, I pray that you will tend the soil of humility within yourself.

May we seek out ways to grow alongside each other.

Go in the name of the story-teller Jesus

to find God moving in your story and in everyone else's.

Go in courage and in peace. 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 "The Glory of These Forty Days" – arr. Robert J. Powell Cathy Fafrak, Organ**

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service****

Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Lorna Lindsley

**** If you would like to host a coffee hour, please sign up in the East Room Hallway****

+++++

Music in this bulletin reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under:

ONE LICENSE, License #A-605137. All rights reserved and CCLI, License #1637380 & #21333812

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org

Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org

Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – karen@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - office@uccmedina.org

Jeff Miller, Financial Director - jeff@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org

Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - jenny@uccmedina.org

Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Nick Bran, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MARCH 10, 2024

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

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at www.uccmedina.org/live

March 10 thru March 17, 2024

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	4th SUNDAY OF LENT
	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 2 A.M.
	8:15 am Chapel Worship
	9:00 am Gathering Worship
	10:00 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
	11:30 am 3 rd Grade Bible Class
	11:30 am Mission Team Meeting

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
7:00 pm Short Stories By Jesus Study
@ St. Matthew’s,
400 N. Broadway St.

Thurs 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Fri 7:00 pm Mental Health Support Group

Sat

Sun **5th SUNDAY OF LENT**
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
11:30 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
11:30 am Hospitality Team Meeting
4:30 pm Youth Group

EVANGELISM TEAM NEEDS YOU!

The Evangelism Team is looking for men, women, and teenagers that are members of the church to join the team. We do activities throughout the year to pull people into the church. If interested, please contact Jen Cockrell at jenn27@zoominternet.net

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

Scripture: Luke 18:9-14

Sermon: “The Pharisee and the Tax Collector”
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Katie York in memory of Elton York.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING TODAY

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a UCC Church Wider Mission that can help those in need and change the trajectory of their lives! This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty the wider church ministries provides resources, educated staff, and volunteers to help shelter, calm, uplift and guide others through these devastating times. Immediate help is given along with long-term guidance. Your contributions make a difference! Please consider a generous donation on March 10th. Checks should be made payable to our church with “OGHS” noted in the memo. Your donation may also be made online through Realm – see the line item for OGHS.

COFFEE HOUR

Please consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. Signups for April and May are still available in the East Room hallway. If no one signs up to host, we will not have coffee hour, so would you please consider hosting one Sunday?

“SHORT STORIES BY JESUS” A LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Don't miss the last two sessions! We'll meet Wednesdays at 7 pm at the following locations:

March 13: St. Matthew's, 400 N. Broadway St.

March 20: UCC, Congregational

EASTER CANDY NEEDED

The DELTS will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at church after the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday. We are asking for **individually wrapped** Easter Candy donations to stuff the Easter Eggs with. There will be container outside the church office to put your donations in. Thank you in advance, the kids appreciate it!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 31st After the 10:30 service

On Easter Sunday, after the 10:30 service, we will have a quick Easter Egg Hunt for the children. The children should bring their Easter Basket or a bag so they can add a few more eggs to their collection. We will have the hunt in the grass area by the pergola. Hope to see you then.

LADIES AND GIRLS TEA

The Ladies and Girls Tea will be held on **Saturday, April 27th from 12 pm – 2 pm.** MARK YOUR CALENDARS! More information to come.

ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS

It's time to order your Easter Flower! You may donate a flower in honor or memory of someone to decorate the Chapel, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary for Easter and claim it afterward, or have it delivered to a member in a care facility, local first responders, or businesses. **This year there will once again be an assortment of different flowers. There is no way to specify what type you can order, but they will be first come, first serve as to which type of flower you can take.** The cost is \$10.00 for any one of them. Deadline for ordering is **March 17th.** Please fill out a yellow order sheet (available from the ushers) and turn it in to the church office OR you can purchase directly through REALM. [Order Easter Flowers](#)

YOU ARE INVITED

The Open & Affirming Team invites you to comment on the board by the entrance in the Welcome Area. Whom do we welcome? To whom do we offer an extravagant invitation? Let us hear from YOU as we begin our conversations about crafting our ONA Covenant Statement. Thank you!

DONATION OF THE MONTH

Spring is approaching and the Mission Team hopes the need for hats, socks and gloves are no longer needed for a few months, but would like to collect these items in March! Usually, the stores start to clearance these items as the days get warmer. We will store these items until the community is in need. Gently used items are also welcomed! Place your donations in the box across from the elevator.

COSTA RICA BUILD UPDATE

The Costa Rica Mission Team will be building for Omar and Maritza Martinez. This will be one of the poorest families Mercy Homes has built for and Maximo continues to say the family situation breaks his heart. Omar has a problem with both kidneys and can't work. He is getting a pension of about \$175 per month (their total family income). They have seven children still living at home. Their 7-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son are both battling cancer. Maritza can't work because she travels frequently by bus with the two sick children to the hospital in San Jose. We will be building a 3-bedroom home this year to better accommodate the family. The home is subject to flooding, so Maximo is working hard to resolve the problem. Right now, they are trying to bring in 5 trucks full of dirt to raise the foundation and manage the water flow. So far only one truckload has been delivered and the driver couldn't get closer than 100 yards to the house. The family and friends have been moving the dirt by shovel and buckets. Please keep the local team in your thoughts and prayer this week so they can get a foundation in place for us to build. Also, keep us in your prayers for safe travel and a successful build.

EASTER BAGS ARE BACK!!!

We will be making Easter Bags for kids with incarcerated parents once again! If you would like to help, you will get a white bag from the Mission Team, decorate the bag and then fill it with age-appropriate gifts. Keep a look out for a table full of eggs and come visit to sign up! The table will be set up BY March 17th! This has been such a wonderful program to spread some love to kids whose parents will not be able to celebrate Easter with them! More details to come!

LAWN MOWER CREW

"The Lord God took humans and put them in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." – Genesis 2:15
If you admire the beautiful landscaping of our church's grounds, please consider joining the mowing crew. The time commitment for mowing the lawn averages about 1½ hours every two weeks in the spring and once a month in the summer and fall. The Property and Grounds team provides a riding mower, push mower, gasoline and trimming tools. Please contact Carl Skorepa at carlskorepa@yahoo.com or call 330-421-3189 for more details.

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 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am – 12 pm

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

3/28 – **Maundy Thursday** – 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

3/29 – **Good Friday** – 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.
Worship in the style of Bible Study

3/31 – **Easter Sunday**
7:00 am – Sunrise Service at **Spring Grove Cemetery Chapel**
8:15 am – **UCC Chapel**
9:00 am – **Fellowship Hall**
10:30 am – **Sanctuary (Livestreamed)**
11:30 am – **Easter Egg Hunt**

4/1 – **Easter Monday** – OFFICE CLOSED

GET YOUR SOLAR ECLIPSE GLASSES HERE!

\$2 each!

Available after worship on Sunday or in the church office

March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

“No Matter What”

Only a portion of Psalm 107 is suggested for the reading today by the lectionary committee. But the psalm in its entirety is worth studying. Each verse reminds the reader of those who have, in moments of extremity, called upon God. The suffering of refugees, the imprisoned, the hungry and enslaved is told, bookended by the miracle of God’s saving power that has visited those who suffered. What response can there be the overflowing gratitude of grateful hearts?

Today, many UCC congregations will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Like the psalmist generations ago, our hearts break at the suffering around us. And as humans capable of holding many emotions at once, we also feel deep gratitude in situations where we see that suffering has been alleviated. Like the psalmist in those moments, we join with multitudes in offering the overflowing gratitude of our hearts back to God.

Today, One Great Hour of Sharing is one way we can co-create with God in shaping a compassionate and just response to the suffering in our nation and world.

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>

“One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women’s empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.”