

MAKING SENSE OF REVELATION



 **MEDINA**
UCC
CONGREGATIONAL
OCTOBER 5, 2025



FAITHFUL
& TRUE



Faithful & True *October 2025*

This four-week series will explore the Book of Revelation through the lens of Dr. Greg Carey's *Faithful and True*, helping us reclaim this challenging text not as a code to be cracked, but as a message of hope and resistance for communities of faith. Far from predicting the end of the world, Revelation invites readers to remain faithful in the midst of empire, injustice, and fear. Through careful engagement with its vivid imagery and bold theology, we will discover that Revelation speaks powerfully to our time—calling us to courage, perseverance, and trust in the God who makes all things new.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty – arr. Lloyd Larson

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

DARWALL'S 148th 6.6.6.6.8.8.

Charles Wesley, 1746, alt.

John Darwall, 1770



1. Re - joice, the Lord is King! The ris - en Christ a - dore!
2. God's reign can nev - er fail, Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
3. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! For Christ, our Judge, shall come



Re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given:
to glo - ri - fy the saints for their e - ter - nal home:



lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the Spirit of John, looking for insight, fearful yet still faithful.

We come to listen for the voice that sounds like rushing waters.

We come to see the One who holds the keys of life and death.

Christ is among us—mystery and majesty, truth and light.

Come, people of God, let us worship the One who makes sense of all things.

*CONFESSION

Holy One, we confess that we often turn away from hard truths.

When your word challenges us, we prefer the easier path of certainty and control.

**When mystery unsettles us, we cover it with our own interpretations,
instead of waiting for your Spirit's guidance.**

We cling to fear more than faith, to comfort more than courage.

Forgive us, O Christ who stands among the lampstands.

Speak again, and give us ears to listen, eyes to see, and hearts to trust in Your living Word.

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Hear the good news: The Son of Humanity lays his hand upon us and says, "Do not be afraid."

The First and the Last, the Living One, was dead and is alive forevermore.

In Christ, our sins are forgiven, our fears are eased, and our future is secure.

Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 1:9-19 (N.T. pg. 230)

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Keith Demerest, Andrew & Michael Lade, Sheila Péo, Andrea Smith

Joining at the 9:00 service: Jennifer Smith

Not able to be with us today: Mike & Natasha Branam

Congregation, when prompted by Luke, please respond: **We promise our love, support, and care as we welcome, love, and serve! Amen!**

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

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

SERMON

"Making Sense of Revelation"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

(with much help from the Sermon Prep Bible Study)

HYMN

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Reginald Heber, 1826, alt.

NICAEA 11.12.12.10

John B. Dykes, 1861

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though we know but dim - ly,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Though the eyes of hum - an - kind your glo - ry may not see,
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,
You a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are wor - thy,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly.
Per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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. All bread served is gluten free.

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

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. You can also give through VENMO. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

UCC Medina

@uccmedina



venmo

Offering Invitation

In a world of confusion, we are called to embody clarity:

Christ's truth is love,

Christ's power is generosity,

Christ's glory is found in service.

As John heard and shared the vision for the churches,

so we share our gifts for the church today—

to bear light, speak hope, and live truth.

Let us bring our offerings with joy.

***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.

***Give Thanks**

Risen Christ, You hold all things in Your hands—

the mystery of life,

the promise of resurrection, and even our ordinary gifts.

Bless what we offer today, that it may shine like lampstands in a dark world.

Bless also our lives, that we may testify not only with words,

but with actions of mercy, courage, and love.

We give thanks that You live among us now and always. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

"Jesus Shall Reign"

DUKE STREET L.M.

Attrib. to John Hatton, c. 1793

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun
2 Through Christ shall end - less prayer be made,
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue
4 Bless - ings a - bound where - e'er Christ reigns:
5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring

does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
 borne by the Spir - it's cease - less aid;
 dwell on God's love with sweet - est song,
 the pris - oners leap to lose their chains,
 trib - utes of praise for all to sing;

God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore
 Like sweet per - fume new hymns shall rise
 And in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim
 The wea - ry find e - ter - nal rest,
 An - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,

till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 their ear - liest prayers in Je - sus' name.
 and all who suf - fer want are blessed.
 and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

Go forth with ears open to mystery,
with eyes fixed on Christ,
 and with hearts attuned to the Spirit's leading.

For truth lies in the interpretation—

and the truest Word has been made flesh and lives among us.

In the name of the First and the Last,

the Living One, go 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** Postlude on "Duke Street" – Wilbur Held

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

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

Coffee Hour is hosted this week by the Community Engagement Team

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PASTORAL STAFF

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

OCTOBER 5, 2025

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

Live streaming of the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service is available at www.uccmedina.org/live

October 5 thru October 12, 2025
WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

NEW MEMBERS JOIN

- 8:15 am Chapel Worship
- 9:00 am Gathering Worship
- 9:45 am Choir Warmup
- 10:00 am Children's Choir
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
- 10:30 am Jesus Vibes
- 11:30 am **Blake Donations Due**
- 3:30 pm Vibes Video Crew
- 4:30 pm Youth Group

Mon 2:00 pm Sermon Prep Bible Study

Tues

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Bell Choir
6:30 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
7:00 pm DELTS Meeting
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thurs 6:30 pm Bible Study

Fri

Sat 11:30 am 50 Year Member Luncheon

Sun Blake Donation Sign-ups

- 8:15 am Chapel Worship
- 9:00 am Gathering Worship
- 9:45 am Choir Warmup
- 10:00 am 3rd Grade Bible Class**
- Informational Meeting**
- 10:00 am Children's Choir
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
- 10:30 am Jesus Vibes
- 10:30 am Teen Church
- 11:45 am Mission Team Meeting
- 3:00 pm Confirmation Class

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

Scripture: Revelation 1:9-19

Sermon: Faithful and True:

“Making Sense of Revelation”

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Katherine Baker in memory of her grandparents.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING

October 5, 2025

Today, UCC congregations are called upon to collect a special mission offering to support a just and compassionate United States and beyond. One-third of the funds raised are used to support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as advancing a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Please consider giving generously to this special offering. Checks should be made payable to our church with “Neighbors in Need” noted in the memo.

OCTOBER DONATION OF THE MONTH

Helping Hands Preschool is working to set up a pantry of personal care items for Medina's youngest bees, ages 3-5 years old. They're asking for donations of diapers, underwear, socks, wipes, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, and toothpaste to help support Medina families with young children. Let's help stock this new pantry!

SERMON PREP STUDY CONTINUES

Join us each week on Mondays at 2pm in the new library, as we gather around the scripture for the upcoming Sunday's worship. We'll read together, ask questions, share insights, and wrestle with how this ancient story speaks into our world today. This isn't about having all the answers - it's about curiosity, conversation, and community.

ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grant applications are available now to apply for funding for special projects and improvements beyond the 2026 Operating/Mission Budgets or individual Team Budgets. Each fall for the past few years the Endowment Committee has awarded funds for many worthwhile projects. Pick up an application soon in the rack near the church office or request one be emailed to you. Complete it and return to the Endowment Committee mailbox in the church office or email to yatesmsla@zoominternet.net by November 16th. Any questions contact Kelly Charnley 330-421-3313 or Matt Yates 330-321-9679.

SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Family Fun Night at the Wolff residence...
Sunday, October 26th
6951 Egypt Rd.
4:30 – 6pm

Bring your whole family for snacks and games!

COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP

Hello! It is that time of the year again to start planning our 2026 Costa Rica Mission Trip. We will be building from February 28th to March 8th in Playa Hermosa. If you are interested in the upcoming mission trip, please email Vicki Miller at tamvic1@aol.com for more information. We'd love to have you join us for this amazing experience.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH @ 3 P.M.

Renowned Biblical scholar and author Dr. Greg Carey will dive deep into apocalyptic literature in a **FREE, thought-provoking talk at 3:00 PM: "Unmasking Power: Revelation and the Forces of Domination."** He will also preach that morning at 8:15, 9, and 10:30 AM during worship. Dr. Carey, Professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary/The Seminary at Moravian University, is a leading voice in biblical interpretation. He has authored or co-edited 10 books, including Using Our Outside Voice, Faithful and True, and Death, the End of History, and Beyond. His latest book, Reading Revelation: Theology, Ethics, and Resistance, debuts this summer!

You may have seen him on the BBC, PBS, Discovery Channel, or History Channel, or read his insights in Christian Century and other top publications.

FEEDING BLAKE FAMILIES

The Feeding Blake Team is ready for congregational generosity in donating menu items to create a meal and snacks to 8 local families every other week this year. This ministry will impact 30 children this academic year for families most in need that attend Blake Elementary, a concentrated Title 1 school.

Donation sign-ups are posted on our announcement board in the hallway and menu items are due to the church by the **following Sunday**. Shelf-stable donations can be placed in our labeled cubbies in the mission area on the church's lower level. Refrigerated and frozen goods can be delivered to the kitchen.

Thank you for considering adding a few items to your shopping list to feed your food insecure neighbors!

Extra items (hygiene, household needs, food, and snacks) are ALWAYS welcome. We ask that you (or you and a friend) consider donating in multiples of 8 to benefit all our families.

Feeding Blake Families Team

TREKKING THROUGH AUTUMN 2025

Hikes leave promptly at 2:00 PM on Sundays. All hikes are 2 miles or less. Award tracking sheets will be available at the first few hikes and in the church office. No RSVP required, come to any you can. Rain or shine except if storming. Look for Pastor Luke, Kate Lindon, and/or Stacie Yates. Email Kate at katewlindon@gmail.com to be added to the email reminder list.

Fifth Hike: 10/5: Litchfield Wetlands Nature Preserve – 3005 Avon Lake Rd., Litchfield 1.7 Miles

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

Psalm 137

Free to Grieve

A seminary professor once told his class of future pastors that there should always be a box of tissues in the pews of the churches they will serve. "If a person can't cry in the sanctuary, then where?" he asked. I took this advice to heart. Every church I shepherded, I made the case to the frugal finance committee for why we needed to order boxes of tissues for the pews.

It was an added cost worth every penny because there was always one person who came through the church doors as a stranger seeking solace who stayed as a sibling who had found healing. And the comment from these solace seekers was always the same: "Pastor, I was grateful for those tissues. I never felt like I could cry like that in church." To which I replied, "If not here, then where?"

For the exiled Israelites it was by the rivers of Babylon where we are told they hung their harps on the willows and proceeded to lament — sobbing a great and heavy collective sob over all that they had lost. They were captives of Babylon. They had lost not just their physical homes, but their spiritual havens as well. They were stripped of their identities and their freedoms.

There are many today in our world in need of a willow to hang their harp on. They need a safe place to crumble to the ground and sob over all that they have lost, be it an actual place of belonging or a sense of purpose. Perhaps we, ourselves, are finding the Israelites' grief hitting too close to home. Losses are piling on top of losses without anytime to properly grieve or adjust to realities that are strange and unwelcomed.

We are living in a time where we all need to give ourselves — and others — the permission to freely grieve. We need to open wide those floodgates that have been holding back our tears. We need to cry to God in our distress. We need to wail and flail over all the injustices happening to and around us. We are in a place of exile from what we have treasured, and thought would never be taken away from us.

We all need a riverbank where we can sit and grieve. We need a place of refuge where we can let it all out. We need a pew with a box of tissues in it, lovingly placed by a pastor who is ready to shed a tear with us.

Compassionate God who not only hears our cries, but weeps with us, we bring you our tears, asking you to wipe them away and restore to us a sense of renewal and wholeness. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)