

**Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale
Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ Service of Holy Communion
Sunday, April 3, 2022**

PRELUDE

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Upper Room

Words & Music: Don Besig, Nancy Price

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**WELCOME AND GATHERING PRAYER
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP (VISION STATEMENT)

We joyfully celebrate Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives. We respect one another in love, actively seeking and embracing those who wish to grow with us in faith, hope, and love. With God's guidance, we minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the community. Through service, we flourish. Amen!

OPENING HYMN

More Love to Thee, #527

Words: Elizabeth P. Prentiss (1869)

Music: William H. Doane (1870)

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*More love to thee, O Christ,
more love to thee!
Hear thou the prayer I make
on bended knee;
this is my earnest plea,
more love, O Christ, to thee,
more love to thee,
more love to thee.*

*Once earthly joy I craved,
sought peace and rest;
now thee alone I seek,
give what is best;
this all my pray'r shall be,
more love, O Christ, to thee,
more love to thee,
more love to thee.*

*Let sorrow do its work,
send grief and pain;
sweet are thy messengers,
sweet their refrain,
when they can sing with me,
more love, O Christ, to thee,
more love to thee,
more love to thee.*

*Then shall my latest breath
whisper thy praise;
this be the parting cry
my heart shall raise;
this still its pray'r shall be,
more love, O Christ, to thee;
more love to thee,
more love to thee.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Merciful and loving God, I come before you with a heavy heart, mind, and spirit. This week has been challenging on many levels. The world is filled with darkness and uncaring ways toward Your children; wars are taking place, hunger is rampant, and many cannot find safe-havens. Lord, I find myself being drawn into the chaos where Your light and ways seem to be only a distant memory. Holy One, show me a better way of living in this world. Guide my thoughts, actions, and words so that I might lead Your children into a world that is filled with love and hope.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Children of God, hear the "Good News," God hears the sorrows that sit on our hearts and know that through Christ, we are forgiven. Amen! Praise be to God!!! Amen.

GLORI PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

WORDS: Lesser Doxology (3rd-4th centuries)

MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Norm Phillips

CHILDREN'S HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

Words & Music: Harry Dixon Loes
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*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (X3)
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Epistle Reading: Philippians 3:4b–14
Gospel Lesson: John 12:1–8

SERMON

Leave Her Alone!, Pastor Dave

HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together, #425

Words: African-American Spiritual
Music: African-American Spiritual; arr. Carlton R. Young (1964)
Copyright: Arr. 1965 Abingdon Press (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)
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*Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)*

[Refrain:]

*When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)*

*Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees) [Refrain]*

*Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees) [Refrain]*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION MEDITATION

LORD'S PRAYER, #307

WORDS: Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)
MUSIC: Albert Hay Malotte, 1935; arr. Donald P. Hustad, 1984
Music 1935 G. Schirmer, Inc. (Admin. by Music Sales Corporation)
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*Our Father, which 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, Amen.*

INVITATION
PRAYER OF CONSECRATION
RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(This is spiritually only, if in the Sanctuary: please stay in your places and use the elements in your Communion Boxes.)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Receiving the elements)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Gracious and loving God, we thank You and praise You for calling us to Your table. Through this Holy Communion, we have been strengthened and prepared to enter the world in hope and faith for what comes next. You have made us one in the body of Christ and nourished us at Your table with holy food and drink. Now send us forth to be Your people in the world. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil as we proclaim Your Good News in all we say and do in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

MORNING OFFERING

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD

We joyfully offer ourselves in God's work using our time, talent, and treasure. If you have not made your offering, please feel free to take your offering up at this time!

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

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*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 (UNISON)

Lord, remind us that an act of giving is always a beginning and never an ending. We ask that these gifts supply new beginnings for those who cannot find the resources to start again. As we bring our gifts, please help us to always be thankful for beginnings. Amen!

WE PAUSE TO REFLECT AND PRAY

Prayers of the People:

You are invited to offer prayers of concerns or joys.

Sharing our joys and concerns

Pastor: God is with you

All: And also, with you

Pastor: Let us pray

Pastoral Prayer

SUNG RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

WORDS: Psalm 143:1

MUSIC: George Whelpton, 1897

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*Hear our Prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer O Lord.
Incline thine ear to us, And grant us thy peace. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above, #6

Words: Johann J. Schütz (1675); Trans. Frances E. Cox (1864, alt.)

Music: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesänge, 1566; Harm. Maurice F. Bell (1906)

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*Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!*

*Our God is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band;
to God all praise and glory!*

*Then all my gladsome way along
I sing aloud your praises
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body take your part;
to God all praise and glory!*

*Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who own God's power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone;
to God all praise and glory!*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Go in Peace, #445

Words: Barbara L. Waters

Music: Kenneth E. White

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Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

RECESSIONAL POSTLUDE

Philippians 3:4-14 (NRSV)

4 even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing toward the Goal

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

John 12:1-8 (NRSV)

Mary Anoints Jesus

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."