

MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

March 12, 2023 · Third Sunday of Lent



90 Maple Street, Danvers, MA 01923

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INTROIT

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
Alleluia Band

Ken Medema

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Cochrane

PRELUDE

Jon Gaines

CALL TO WORSHIP (UNISON)

One: The harvest has been brought in.

All: There is work to do!

One: It isn't ready to bake or serve yet.

All: There is work to do!

One: God is ready for us.

All: We will work with God to prepare the food and set the table.

One: Let us Let Love Rise as we praise and worship God together.

***OPENING HYMN**

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale

Black No.32

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (UNISON)**

Holy God, in days such as these, we wonder why violence and war are allowed to persist. We come to worship and to hear your word, but we linger in doubt and in apathy, believing that the weeds of this world are too great for you. Remind us again that the weeds will not be there forever and that you continue tending the mill of our lives. Speak to us again today, encouraging our faithfulness in you, so that we may have strength enough to Let Love Rise; so that we may have endurance enough to reach the abundance of your table. Amen.

in the name of the one who leads u on our journey we pray...

LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

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. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***RESPONSE**

Tune: Red No. 177

Center in us, O God, we pray,

Mindful of love, Your passions way.

Break forth within our darkest night.

From death's own cross, a holy light. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Calling God, you often call us from what we are doing to join with you in ministry. You want to create vocation in our work and to give meaning to our lives. But there are so many voices drowning out yours, vying for our

attention. Forgive us when we don't listen to you or when we think you don't need us to help tend your fields and mill your grain. Give us courage to face each day's work and to find your calling there in our lives.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God has promised that we do not labor in vain and we do not labor alone. God's grace crushes sin. God's love sifts through our lives. God's peace persists until all is ready to share. Amen.

ANTHEM

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)
Amy Brierley, solo

James Koerts

TIME FOR ALL AGES

Seeds

words & music by Tom Hunter

1. A lot of **trees** start from seeds so small
You gotta look close or you can't see 'em at all.
It's hard to believe that **trees** grow so tall from seeds that start so small.
Well, the sun comes up (well, the sun comes up)
And the rain comes down (and the rain comes down)
And the seeds get planted in the fertile ground.
If you listen real close you can hear the sound of the **tree** starting to grow.
2. **songs**
3. **love**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Pamela Cochrane

OFFERING

*Thank you for all the ways you give to the ministry of Maple Street Church.
Your gifts whether offered weekly, monthly, by pledge or online, make a difference in the life of the church. Collection boxes are located at both sanctuary entrances, on the church office door, and the church mailbox outside the Chapel.*

OFFERTORY

How High the Sky

Words & music by Sister Miriam Therese Winter

***DOXOLOGY**

Red No. 515

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 13:24-35

Casey Brennan
Pew Bible pg.847

MESSAGE

"Milling and Grinding"

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

***CLOSING HYMN**

God of the Fertile Fields

Tune: ITALIAN HYMN

Words: Georgia Harkness

1. God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields
Our daily bread;
Forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
That all in every land be clothed and fed.
2. We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you
All that you give;
Help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
For people everywhere, that all may live.
3. As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need,
Your reign yet grows.
So let our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
No humble task refused your love bestows.
4. God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died
To make us one;
We pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you;
Guide all we say and do, till life is done.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jon Gaines

*The altar flowers this Sunday are given in loving memory of
Leo Curda,
Ethel & Harold Wheeler,
and Hattie & Frank Curda
Given by Priscilla Curda*

*The steeple is lit this week in loving memory of
Charles Dinsmore given by his daughter, Janet
Given by Janet Dinsmore*

Sunday's Servants:

Ushers: Casey Brennan, Marie Cooper, & Priscilla Curda
Scripture Reader: Casey Brennan

**Please stand as you are able*