



Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC

We share God's love, hope, and healing and serve our neighbors.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

for March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent — “Love & Restoration”

Gather

People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town. As we gather virtually, we too are yearning for his presence, for peace and for help

Prelude

Welcome

Rev. Pam Cochrane

Invitation

Leader: We continue our Lenten “season of restoration” as we focus on health as essential to our spiritual lives.

Theme refrain is sung once through, freely:

**Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul
Healer, come.**

Leader: The demands of following Jesus are great. He shows us that sometimes we must make extraordinary efforts to move in a new direction. As we consider the health of humanity, we cannot ignore the need to heal the very planet that sustains us. We live in increasing chaos of a beleaguered environment and the hoarding of resources. We want to be “saved” by something or someone else, but we discover this week that we are in the boat with the One who shows us our power to turn it around, to calm the storm. We protect the jewel that is our home, restoring something beautiful from scars of the past.

Musical Refrain:

**Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul, come.**

Opening Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels, especially this holy container of life on which we live—this very planet.

Let us pray:

Life-giving God, In the beginning, you created this universe with a phrase, “Let it be...” and the waters and dry land, the sky and the creatures were formed. You set humanity among these wonders and invited us to care and honor all things. We have not successfully answered that call. Seeing the abundance as a feast that would never end, we gorged ourselves, taking more than we could replenish at a rate that could not be sustained. We are beginning to comprehend the magnitude, beginning to see that things cannot just keep going “as usual” and not have dire consequences. We are frightened, which is partly why we are slow to accept it. But we now are witnesses to the forces of a world more broken than when we inherited it: water, wind, and wave, fire, drought, and earthquake that signal it is time to pay attention and to make real change. Too often we think there is nothing we can do—that the change required is too great. It all feels overwhelming and so we look away, sometimes even from the small things that could make a difference for our own community. Help us, Healer. Show us

our ability to chart a different course. Forgive our inaction. Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for one another. In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

Silence

Musical Refrain:

**Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul
Healer, come**

Assurance of God's Presence

I invite you to imagine a warmth begin to arise within the core of your body. It may help to keep your eyes closed. This warm orb of light is deep within you, a flame always there and ready when you need it. This warm glow begins to emerge from the recesses of your inner being and it fills you with determination and courage. It floods your whole body until your skin is glowing with it, radiating outward. You feel strong. Know this: Jesus asks us to do hard things, to make changes, knowing we are capable.

No. Matter. What. We can change in order to heal this jewel planet called home.

The calm of Christ in the storm is available.

For you, for me, for all. Take a deep breath in to let this truth fill you...

and breathe out with the relief of assurance.

Peace

*I invite you to imagine the warmth that surrounds you extending to those who may be next to you in close proximity. Imagine it extending beyond your walls to the neighborhood... the wider community... the church... and seeing it spread like the rising sun, let it expand to all the world.
Let this be our peace. Amen.*

May the peace of Christ be with you.

Anthem

Look At The World
Chancel Choir 2019

John Rutter

Believe

People were fortified by Jesus' words and deeds that revealed care for all-especially those marginalized. We strengthen our beliefs in the possibility for renewed health and vigor for all.

Children's Message

"Nests and Eggs"

Rev. Pam Cochrane

Scripture— Matthew 8:18-27

Message

"God's World"

Rev. Pam Cochrane

Prayers of the People

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 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.

Special Music

I See the Morning Breaking
Kathy Gross, flute
Ji Hye Jung, piano

Traditional folk melody, arr. Allan Pote

*I see the morning breaking through the valleys and the hills, I see the morning breaking as I go...
And I'm going home to Jesus, bless my soul.
I feel the fresh wind blowing through the valleys and the hills, I feel the fresh wind blowing as I go...
And I'm going home to Jesus, bless my soul.
I hear the people stirring through the valleys and the hills, I hear the people stirring as I go...
And I'm going home to Jesus, bless my soul, O, bless my soul.*

Offering and Dedication of Pledges

Closing Hymn

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale Tune: ROEDER, words: Jaroslav Vajda

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe, how does the creature say praise
God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature say Woe, how does the creature say Save
God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace, how does the creature say thanks
God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care, how does the creature say Life
God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love, how does the creature say Peace
God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy, how do your children say Home.

Benediction

Postlude

*The altar flowers are in loving memory of
Blenda & Eugene Acheson
Given by Karen Kane*

*The chancel flowers are in loving memory of
Stephen Kuzma
Given by Peggy Kuzma and the Shannon Family*

*The steeple is lit in loving memory of
Walter Bradstreet
Given by Bill & Adrienne Bradstreet*

Announcements & Events

Sunday, March 21 at 10am: *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Tuesday, March 23 at 7pm: *Trustees Mtg on Zoom*

Thursday, March 25 at 7pm: *Small Group Movie Discussion on Zoom*

Sunday, March 28 at 10am: *Palm Sunday Worship & Parade of Cars after the Service*

Tuesday, March 30 at 2pm: *Tea for the Soul on Zoom*

Sunday, April 4 at 10am: *Easter Sunday Worship*

Tuesday, April 6 at 7pm: *Church Council Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, April 11 at 10am: *Second Sunday of Easter followed by **Congregational Mtg on Bylaws on Zoom***

Tuesday, April 13 at 7pm: *Deacons Mtg on Zoom*

Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30pm: *CE Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, April 18 at 10am: *Third Sunday of Easter Worship*

Tuesday, April 20 at 7pm: *World Service Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, April 25 at 10am: *Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship*

Tuesday, April 27 at 7pm: *Trustees Mtg on Zoom*

Email the Church Office for the Zoom meeting links: info@maplestreetchurch.org

Every Tuesday at 6pm: Prayer & Table

Every Wednesday at 12noon: Chat with the Pastors via Zoom

Every Thursday at 12noon: Virtual Bible Study

Thursday, March 25th, at 7:00pm

Small Group Ministry Film discussion

I Am Not Your Negro, involving a manuscript and voice of James Baldwin. *I Am Not Your Negro* is a documentary based on writer/activist James Baldwin's 1979 book proposal to write about three of his close friends: assassinated civil rights leaders Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, the documentary includes contemporary examples of racial tensions in the United States as well as archival footage of lynchings, murdered civil rights leaders, the KKK, police officers hurting nonviolent protestors, and white supremacists chanting or protesting in favor of segregation. Themes include perseverance and empathy, and Baldwin's views, despite being decades old, are still relevant and guaranteed to spark conversation. Please take time to view this powerful movie and prepare for our discussion as we gather on the March 25th. This movie can be found on Netflix and on YouTube.

World Service Committee

Palm Sunday & Sharing with the Community

Sunday, March 28th

Parade of Cars and Palm Sunday Procession

After the service, hop in your car and bring:

Money/Checks for the Danvers Food Pantry

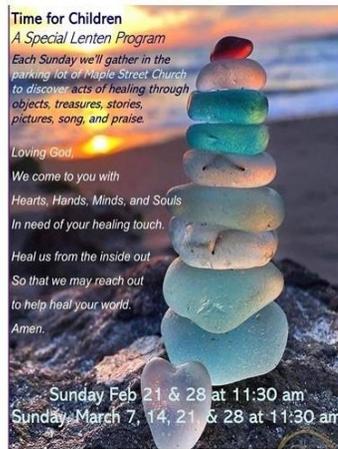
(Remember no food, they are under construction and are only collecting money.) Checks should be made out to Maple Street Church with Danvers Food Pantry in the memo. You can also mail your donation to the church by March 28.

Cereal for Bootstraps

Please bring adult & children's name brand cereals (not store brands)



The parking lot will be set up so you can drive in, drop off your donations from your car, and continue back onto Charter Street. To receive palms and join in the Palm Sunday procession, limited parking may be available in the parking lot or you can park in the lot across the street or in front of the church on Maple Street.



Sunday Flowers

Giving flowers in celebration or in memory of a loved one is a wonderful way to commemorate them and beautify the sanctuary. We have an open date in the flower schedule for **Sunday, May 2nd**. Anyone interested can call Judy Drouin: 978-774-7455.

Tea for The Soul: March 30th, at 2pm

We will come together, share in tea, snacks, and conversation together on Zoom. Mark your calendars!

