UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HANCOCK

Open and Affirming of ALL God's Children



Fourth Sunday in Lent March 14, 2021

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Silent Prayer

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name. Amen (TNCH #846, adapted)

Prelude

Bring Us Back to Thee, O Lord

Trad Israeli melody/ Powell

Welcome Rev.TJ Mack

Introit There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (v. 1)

black hymnal #23

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea; There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty. There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven; There's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgement given.

Passing of the Peace (ASL)

Lighting of the Peace Candle & Prayer for Peace –

Call to Worship – (spoken in unison, but muted, please)
O give thanks to the Lord, who is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.

Children's Hymn

I Love to Tell the Story (v. 1)

black hymnal #522

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true, It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Invocation (spoken in unison, but muted, please)

Almighty God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, open your Word and illumine our darkened world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. Amen

Children's Message

Godly Play

Faces of Easter

Jesus' Baptism & Blessing and Jesus' Temptations in the Desert

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

New Testament Reading

John 3:14-21

Arr. Parks

red hymnal #386

Rev. TJ Mack Message

We are One in the Spirit Hymn We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, And we pray that our unity may one day be restored: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand. And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side, We will work with each other, we will work side by side, And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Call to Confession

This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, for people loved darkness rather than light. Let us uncover our transgressions before the liberating light of Christ.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints. We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor. We protest the problems of our world, but we do not actively work to address them. Merciful God, expose our unrighteous ways before the light of your grace. Heal us and free us from our foolish ways that we me know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People – Sharing Joys & Concerns

Pastoral/Community Prayers

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. Lead Me Lord

Lead me Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou Lord, thou Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

Offering

Welcoming our Tithes and Offerings — TNCH #844, adapted Leader: All good gifts come from you, O God. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts to one another.

Offertory A Garden Prayer

Raybold

The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God, above ye heav'nly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication (spoken in unison, but muted, please)

All: Merciful God, we thank you for your wonderful works among humankind. Accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives and help us be for the world an emblem of your steadfast love. Amen

Hymn Let All Things Now Living red hymnal #529 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us by guiding us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night; till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces. The stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit, obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: "To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Benediction – (spoken in unison, unmuted) May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the light of the Spirit bless you and keep you in the way of truth. Amen

Postlude Rigaudon Lasky

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Union Congregational Church of Hancock, PO Box 443, Hancock, ME 04640

Please reference Graham Espling on the memo line of your check.

Or visit this link to our PayPal account: paypal.me/hancockucc

Thank you for your generosity.

Many thanks to those who helped make this service possible –

in front of the camera and behind the scenes.

Deb Riley – Music Minister
Pat Summerer – Deacon, Hymn Leader
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Cynthia Wood – Graphics Minister
Mike Summerer – Audio-Video Minister
Jennifer Ashmore – Technical Support
Vicky Espling – Office Secretary
TJ Mack – Settled Minister
You – Our Congregation near and far

207.422.3100 207.323.6743

Resources:
Feasting on the Word, adapted
Cover Art is Sculpture of Moses' bronze snake on Mt. Nebo.



Church of the Light, Ibaraki, Japan. Architect: Tadao Ando

If this photo is used, please add the following to the end of the bulletin:

Cover art: "Mr. Ando has shown an ability to suffuse rooms with light in surprising ways. One of his most famous projects is the Ibaraki Kasugaoka Church in Ibaraki, Japan, which is known as the Church of the Light because of the cruciform-shaped opening in the concrete wall behind the altar." [from The New York Times, March 30, 2014.]