



The United Church of Christ
of Annapolis

Sunday, March 10, 2024, 10:30am
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Hybrid In-Person & Online Worship Service Order
YouTube LiveStream

Music: Ken Kepler & Members of the UCCA Choir
Liturgist: Aaron Paquette
Preaching: Rev. Ellen Witko

SERVICE NOTES: "+" before a line is an invitation to rise as you are able.
Responses in BOLD are invitation for all to respond. Hymnals –
Purple refers to Glory to God, the purple hymnal in the pew, Black
refers to the black New Century Hymnal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Altar Flowers are given in loving Memory of Bill McFadden in celebration of his birthday

PRELUDE "Sospirando on the Passion Chorale" -- Hans Leo Hassler,
arr. John Barr

Via Positiva

*We share together that God is our praise
and that all creation is blessed and holy.*

+ CALL TO WORSHIP AND BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

One: God's love is for all of creation.

Many: The vastness of God is for human, animal, soil, and sun, all together as God's beloved.

One: God has not come into the world in Jesus to condemn us.

Many: Jesus has come to live God's love in the flesh.

One: While the world is dim with injustice and the feeling of loneliness,

Many: it is in Jesus that the light of love illumines our path of friendship. Come, let us join our lives with the Friend, whose love is for the whole world.

One: The peace of the Lord be always with you!

Many: And also with you.

— Share a sign of peace by greeting your neighbor, send a text to someone, or shout "Peace!" to the world!

+ GLORIA

Gloria, gloria, gloria: in excelsis Deo!

+ HYMN OF PRAISE "For the Beauty of the Earth" Purple #14

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God who is Friend, the vastness of your love flows through all of creation, and this is cause for rejoicing. For all the harshness and condemnation that we see in the world, you have come to us out of love, compassion, and to save us from ourselves. We acknowledge our belief

that you have come to redeem, to heal, to restore, and forgive, not just some of the world, but all of the world. May our worship embody the love and light you bring in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Via Negativa

A time of letting go.

*Even our emptiness — the repressed, the evil, the nothingness —
is all redeemed and we can let go.*

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (*Children please come forward*)

LORD'S PRAYER (*Children Participate*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Trusting in God's forgiveness,
let us in silence confess our failings
and acknowledge our part in the pain of the world.

{We hold silence}

Before God,
with the people of God,
I confess to turning away from God
in the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.

***May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.***

Amen.

***Before God,
with the people of God,
we confess to turning away from God
in the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.***

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. **Amen.**

Via Creativa

We are co-creators with God in the work of our time.

SCRIPTURE READING

Listen now, in the reading of Scripture,
for the word and wisdom of God.

We open our hearts to the word and wisdom of God.

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to

take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"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. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,

thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Saved"

Rev. Ellen Witko

SILENT MEDITATION (3 Minutes)

+ HYMN OF INCLUSION "Living With Uncertainty" George Stuart (Tune-Purple #220)

1. Living with uncertainty
Can create anxiety.
When our path is quite unclear,
Answers come, then disappear.
That is when we need a guide,
Someone walking by our side.
2. Living with uncertainty
Covers up tranquility.
Freedom to explore and change
Prompts the challenge to exchange
Past controls for liberty --
Fosters new discovery.
3. Living with uncertainty
Is what life will always be;
But we have no need to fear:
God, our partner year by year,

Is our future energy
To live life abundantly.

Via Transformativa

transforming passion for the world is borne of love. Having given praise, been reminded that we are loved, and participated in the building up of love together, we now prepare ourselves to be transformed by that love to do God's work in the world.

COLLECTION FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

We are deeply appreciative to receive the offering for the life and work of this beloved community. To support the ongoing work of our church, we ask that you please continue to give via the offering plate, online at our website or via text as described below:

www.uccannapolis.org/giving

Text to Give: Text "Give \$25" to (410) 376-5446

We thank God for the gift of this church and its many blessings in our lives!

Offertory "Mesto Offertoire" -- Abbe Louis Lepage

+ DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
God in all three whom we adore. Amen***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE OFFERING

Thank you, God, for loving us to the very ends of the earth and back. Your willingness to say yes to coming in the flesh to redeem our world through love and no to the powers of oppression has led us to give of ourselves generously this day. Take these gifts and multiply them across this world that you love so extravagantly. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*We share our prayers of hope and concern together.
We will conclude our prayers with:
**O Loving God, spirit of hope and peace,
lead us from death to life.
Lead us from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe:
Peace ... Peace ... Peace,***

CHORAL RESPONSE John L. Bell

Amen, Amen, Alleluia, Amen!

+ HYMN OF DEDICATION "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" Purple #727

BENEDICTION

***May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit,***

be with us all evermore, Amen

POSTLUDE "Bromwich Voluntary" -- Walter W. Winton

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The United Church of Christ of Annapolis

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We give thanks to God that you could join us today.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Pastor Hours: The pastor will observe days of rest on Tuesday and Friday. Appointments are available by contacting the pastor or the church office.

Choir: Weekly choir rehearsals are Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings. New voices are always welcome! See Ken Kepler, Director of Music for more information.

Home Communion: The UCCA will be taking communion to those who are ill or infirm and not able to attend church on the first Sunday of the month. If you would like to have home communion, please contact Ellen Witko or the church office.

Sunday School: Sunday School meets during service, for children aged 11 and younger, following the children's conversation. We look forward to having your child grow with us!

Fellowship Following Services: Please join us after the 10:30 service for a cup and conversation!

Pastoral Care: If you would like more information about pastoral care or arrange a meeting, please contact Rev. Ellen Witko at ellenwitko@att.net or (908)-425-6362.

All Church Book Read – "How to Be an Antiracist" by Ibram X on hiatus until April 7, 2024.

Easter Choir – members and friend of the congregation are invited to join the choir for a seasonal anthem! This is a great opportunity to show off your vocal talents. There will be three 20 minute after-service rehearsals starting March 10. For more information see Music Director, Ken Kepler.

Pastor Ellen Vacation – Pastor Ellen will be on vacation from March 11-17. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. Robert Fagan or the church office.

Easter Schedule:

Palm Sunday March 24 – Parade with bikes and decorations. We will sing songs, play kazoos, bang drums and carry signs before gathering back in the sanctuary for morning service 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday March 28 – Foot/Hand washing, dinner and communion 6:00pm

Good Friday March 29 – Walk the Labyrinth with other local churches at Goshen Farm 11:00am

Easter Sunday March 31- Egg Hunt, Easter Service, and Breakfast 10:00am