

"One Great Hour of Sharing" by the United Church of Christ

**THE 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT
A Service of the Word**

March 14, 2021 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 4th Sunday in Lent

Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind. For the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs.

— Isaiah 49:10 (*The Message*)

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude — “Water Music - Air” by Handel

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Welcome

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Invocation

One: Source of Love-Made-Flesh, we stream to you from East and West seeking the right and holding on to the holy. Settle us body and soul in the land of hope your prophets proclaimed. Free our hearts and minds to hear anew the call to compassion, the challenge of community, the needs of our neighbors.

Call to us in this One Great Hour that we may gather in Spirit and in Truth and be changed. Seated and settled now, this we pray in Jesus' name: Amen.

Call to Worship

One: We are yearning for the day...

Many: **The day of God's hope made real! The day when nobody is hungry, nobody thirsty!**

One: Shade from Sun and Shelter from the Wind, The Compassionate One guides to the springs of living water in the Word and in mighty deeds!

Many: **Let us worship our God and Let Love Flow!**

Hymn — “For the Beauty of the Earth”

this bulletin, pg. 7

Prayer of Confession

One: God of grace and abundance: we confess that we have stored up the blessings meant for all, and kept them too close. We have pretended that we have done enough for our neighbors, when still we see their need.

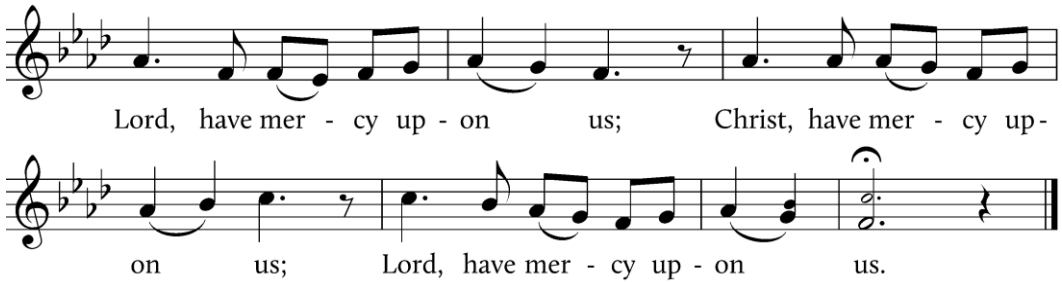
For the ways in which we ruin relationships through neglect, and for the ways we obstruct the love you would let flow for all, we ask your forgiveness and a new way to live.

Transform our hearts so that our actions may follow. In our abundance, free us from the fear of scarcity, and open our hands to heal your people and your land. Set our feet on new paths and guide us to the up-welling spring of your grace.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Silence is kept for personal confession and reflection.

PRAYER FOR MERCY: KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe this good news: nothing can dam the waters of God's love. The Compassionate One guides us and will shelter us from the winds of recrimination. God's mercy frees us to make our broken places whole, reconnecting us to a higher call and new life. Love flows to us this day, and by God's power we are forgiven.

Many: Thanks be to God.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

**RESPONSE:* "Take, O Take Me as I Am"

TAKE ME AS I AM

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up-on my heart, and live in me.

The image shows a musical score for the song "Take Me as I Am". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with block chords and clear melodic lines.

Views from Haiti

Litany of Water

Hold your cup of water as you pray.

One: God of all people, your compassion washes over your people around the world.
People made in your image, yet weak when alone...

Many: **Small as drops, but love flows.**

One: And like drops your people gather, seeking the way to you, drops make streams...

Many: **Wearing away the stone to let love flow!**

One: Joining in a murmur of praise, the stream unites...

Many: **In ever-flowing current to let love flow!**

One: From the banks of the hillside creeks, the streams that irrigate our fields, and the water freely given and carried up a mountain, may our love converge

Many: **In a mighty river of mercy to let love flow!**

One: For this we know: drops alone may dry too soon, but drops together are a flood of love!

Many: **In this and every hour: Let Love Flow!**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 49:8-12

Sermon — “Let Love Flow Like Water”

Rev. Dr. Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine

The refrain (“Take, O Take Me as I Am” – music above) is repeated.

Views from Kenya

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: Go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button.

Text: Text “StorrsCongChurch” to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. “StorrsCongChurch \$100”).

Those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions (joys and concerns) via the Chat feature. To protect privacy, surnames will not be used.

Call to Offering

One: “Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty” is the hope of God in Isaiah. It is also the hope of this One Great Hour of Sharing and caring. With the gifts of our hearts, we let love flow, like new well-water to a thirsty village; for crops, for cooking, for life! Let our giving be an upwelling of generosity and may the stream of love bring about God’s kin-dom. Our gift is prayer in action. Praise be to God.

Dedication

Many: **Spirit of the Living God, bless these gift that we offer from our hearts for the good works of this church and beyond. May our tithing, talents, and service help to make a difference in the lives of Your people. Amen.**

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “God So Loved the World” by Stainer

Adult Choir

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
That whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;
But that the world through him might be saved.
God so loved the world. *John 3:16-17*

The Prayers of the People, *ending with* The Lord's Prayer

Many: 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 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 glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

News from our Life Together

Hymn — “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

this bulletin, pg. 8

Benediction

Postlude — “Water Music – *Allegro maestoso*” by Handel

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open *for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!*

For the Beauty of the Earth 14

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 5 For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;

for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

TEXT: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838, abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

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O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 610

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
 3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
 4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
 sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
 to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

SPANISH

1 *Mil voces para celebrar
 a mi Libertador,
 las glorias de su majestad,
 los triunfos de su amor.*

KOREAN

1 만 입이 내게 있으면
 그 입 다 가지고
 내 구주 주신 은총을
 늘 찬송하겠네

This text comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn the author wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. This tune, adapted from a German composer, is the usual North American setting.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; Spanish trans. Federico J. Pagura;
 Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

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- One Great Hour of Sharing Resources adapted from Kent Gilbert, Lead Pastor, Union Church, Berea, Kentucky.

A Note on Giving: *We welcome and encourage your financial generosity in support of the Storrs Congregational Church UCC! Giving back to God and God’s mission through the life of this church is a part of your gratitude towards God and your faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to you.*

- **Mail:** *You can mail your check or money order to us at the church office*
- **Drop-off:** *You can drop off cash, checks, or money orders at the church office during the week.*
- **Online Bill Pay:** *Most banks and credit unions offer an “online bill pay” in their online account access. All you need to do is set up the church as another payee in that system, and your bank or credit union will print a check and mail it to us at no cost—you don’t even need to find a stamp!*
- **Online or text via ACH debit from a checking or savings account:** *By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can make an auto-debit from your checking or savings account. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 1% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 1% processing fee.)*
- **Online or text via Debit Card or Credit Card:** *By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can charge your contribution to a debit card or credit card. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 3% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 3% processing fee.) If using a credit card, know that we as a church do not want you to add to any debt load in order for you to contribute, as that’s not good stewardship! If using a credit card, please make sure, for your own sake, that it’s a card for which you pay off the balance each month.*

If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).

We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community. *We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to all. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.*

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

***We share in God's love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.***

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