



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

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StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, March 14, 2021 – Online



Some became fools through their rebellious ways
and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.
They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death.
Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and He saved them from their distress.
He sent out His word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave.
Let them give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love
and His wonderful deeds for mankind.
Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of His works with songs of joy.

OPENING MUSIC "Voluntary on a Moravian Hymn" Ritter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Jesus, Name Above All Names" Hearn

CALL TO WORSHIP

You saw your children as slaves in Egypt, and brought them sometimes unwillingly, to freedom; you see your children today, held captive by our desire for more and more, and weep. Pour out your boundless love on us from day to day, O God. All that we have learned and think we know has not brought meaning to our lives. Our hearts cry out for your perfect peace in an imperfect world. As we gaze upon the Cross, bring our hearts to healing. As you speak to us through the words of Jesus, humble us, O God. Fill us with desire for your wholeness and your holiness. Fill us with the Wisdom of your Spirit. **Amen**

HYMN "Make Us One"

Make us one Lord; Make us one.
Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let Your love flow So the world will know
We are one in You.

Make us one Lord; Make us one.
Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let Your love flow So the world will know
We are one in You.

CCLI Song # 695737 Carol Cymbala © 1991, 1994 Carol Joy Music (Admin. by ClearBox Rights, LLC) Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.)

FIRST READING **Psalm 107:1-3; 17-22** (New International Version)

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—
those He redeemed from the hand of the foe,
those He gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south.

SHARING AND 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 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 the glory, forever. Amen.

MUSIC "It Is Well With My Soul" Bliss

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

Blessings don't always make sense. They can be hard to recognize. They can be frightening-- terrifying, even. Yet together, we see the Good News, and pass it along to others. We continue to commit our lives and our resources to finding new, innovative ways to continue to walk with Jesus, even during this season of pandemic. We appreciate your commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able. Thank you. To give online, you may go to:
<https://www.myoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

or mail your offering to **Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136**. You may also save a stamp and drop your envelope in the church mailbox at any time.

OFFERTORY "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" Williams

SECOND READING **Numbers 21:4-9** (The Message)

They set out from Mount Hor along the Red Sea Road, a detour around the land of Edom. The people became irritable and cross as they traveled. They spoke out against God and Moses: "Why did you drag us out of Egypt to die in this godforsaken country? No decent food; no water—we can't stomach this stuff any longer." So GOD sent poisonous snakes among the people; they bit them and many in Israel died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke out against GOD and you. Pray to GOD; ask him to take these snakes from us."

Moses prayed for the people. GOD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it on a flagpole: Whoever is bitten and looks at it will live." So Moses made a snake of fiery copper and put it on top of a flagpole. Anyone bitten by a snake who then looked at the copper snake lived.

REFLECTION

Hair of the Dog?

HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most--I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine Demands my soul my life my all.

CCLI Song # 27893 Isaac Watts | Lowell Mason © Words: Public Domain Music:
Appalachian Folk Melody O Waly Waly arr. By Michael James Public Domain

BENEDICTION

Go with a tender and grateful heart, remembering that you may be the only gospel that your neighbor reads this week. So, in all you say and do, spread the grace of God, the love of Jesus and the friendship of the Holy Spirit. You are blessed by the grace, love and friendship of our Creator, and now you are commissioned to share it by being a blessing in this world. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Agincourt Hymn"

Dunstable

SERVING

TODAY – MARCH 14

NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 21

Linda Ponstingle	Liturgist	Irene Joyce
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Doug Thorn	Sound/Video	Doug Thorn
Chuck McDougall	Video	Chuck McDougall
Richard Densmore, Carol Foley	Special Music	Sandy O'Shea

The steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy 30th Birthday to Keana Dickson on March 18th!

With Love, Ingrid & Greg Dickson

Happy Birthday to Mia & Natalia Hill on March 17th

With Love, Grammy

In loving memory of Richard Craig—Love, Betty



Many thanks to Richard Densmore for recording music, to Carol Foley for her music, and to Linda Ponstingle for joining us for today's worship service!

Happy Birthday today to Robert Craig!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED



Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,649.37

Last Week's Offering Received \$ 5,596.00

Difference \$ 1,946.63

Thank you very much for your support of our church and its ministries

Additional song credits

Voluntary on a Moravian Hymn Abraham Ritter, 18th Century Century
© Public Domain Composed for organ, played by Richard Densmore

Jesus, Name Above All Names CCLI Song # 21291 Naida Hearn
© 1974, 1978 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

It Is Well With My Soul CCLI Song # 25376 Horatio Gates Spafford | Philip Paul Bliss © Words & Music: Public Domain Hymn tune: *Ville Du Havre*

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus CCLI Song # 137178 Samuel Trevor Francis | Thomas John Williams © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain Hymn tune: Ebenezer

Agincourt Hymn John Dunstable *Deo Gratias*, 15th Century © Public Domain, arranged for organ, played by Richard Densmore

CCLI License # 11237335

HOLY WEEK

3/28 PALM SUNDAY Meditation 9:30 a.m.
OUTDOOR PALM PARADE at 10: 30 a.m.

4/1 MAUNDY THURSDAY

Meditation/Communion 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

4/4 EASTER SUNDAY 7: 30 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Service
9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Services (Reservations required)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING



The annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received throughout the month of March. The gifts you give to OGHS are leveraged with those of others across the United Church of Christ, bringing a greater impact to the work being done with local and global partners. Your support enables the UCC

to respond to a variety of global and local concerns by addressing advocacy, sustainable development, refugee and asylum issues, migration, and disasters, and assisting those most in need and vulnerable among us.

The COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, and flooding have ravaged communities in the United States and worldwide, leaving families and communities in desperate need of assistance. Some of these disasters have occurred in our hometown, or in nearby communities, or to friends and neighbors in countries thousands of miles away. Your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of God's love continues to change lives here and around the world, as together we build a just world for all.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is administered through Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

LENTEN PRAYER AND MEDITATION—



The sanctuary of the church will be open on Sunday morning, March 21st from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. (note different time) to provide an opportunity for our members and friends to come in and be in prayerful communication with God. Stop in for a short time during that hour and let the Holy Spirit speak to you. Of course, safety protocols will be in place, including the requirement of mask wearing, social distancing, and sanitizing. Limited numbers will be allowed in the Sanctuary, and pews will be designated in order to maintain safety protocols.

Pastor Heidi will provide a printed meditation, should you desire a focus for your quiet time, and will be available for prayer and spiritual support as needed.

PLEASE NOTE: This worship opportunity is not a regular worship service. It is a chance for you to supplement your individual daily Lenten devotions, while our congregation takes a first, "baby step" towards eventually returning to in-person worship at some point.

May your Lenten journey be blessed.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Don Gleichauf, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Elliott Joyce, Carole Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Joyce Reed, Dorothy and Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldridge, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiautraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Richard Sazima & Kathy Sazima (Judi Pavisich's friends), Anneke Scholtz (Irene Jannsohn's sister), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.

THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is **OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.** with enhanced safety protocols in place and lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted,

but you must **call** the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The 3rd Monday of the month,
March 15, 2021 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We're still open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Also, the Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!

GIFT CARDS--YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN A SAFE WAY THAT BENEFITS OUR CHURCH.



You may order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is

available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. You may arrange to pick up your cards at the church office with your payment at a convenient time.

Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church.

Our latest check from Amazon was \$48.57!

EASTER LILIES/TULIPS ORDER FORM

You may choose a lily or tulips (no color choice). Please call or email the church prior to the deadline of **Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at NOON**. The cost is **\$8.00**. Payment is due **March 31, 2021**.

Wording for bulletin:

Given by: _____

(# of plants) Lilies _____ (x \$8) Tulips _____ (x \$8)

Total amount due: \$ _____

I will take my plant(s). I will leave my plant(s) for someone who needs some cheer.

Please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and call or email the church with your order.

For Church Records

2021 Easter Lily/Tulip

Total number of plants: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Offering envelope number: _____ Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____

Order deadline is Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at NOON.

Payment deadline is March 31, 2021

