



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 (Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

**Sunday, March 7, 2021 – Online
 The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

OPENING MUSIC “10,000 Reasons” Myrin/Redman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” Maker

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever He leads us. Lent calls us to journey to the place where God covenants with us, to receive new, God-given names. Lent calls us to worship, so that future generations might hear the good news. Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God’s hope to all people. Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life. Lent calls us to journey with God. **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
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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 19:7-13** (New International Version)

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.
 The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.
 The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.
 The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.
 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.
 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.
 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.
 Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

SHARING AND PRAYERS

MUSIC “Lamb of God” Paris

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

Together, we again 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 “What Wondrous Love is This?” American Folk Hymn

SECOND READING **Exodus 20:1-11** (Common English Bible)

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
 You must have no other gods before me. Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. Do not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the LORD your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents’ sins even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Do not use the LORD your God’s name as if it were of no significance; the LORD won’t forgive anyone who uses his name that way.
 Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. Six days you may work and do all your tasks, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. Do not do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your animals, or the immigrant who is living with you. Because the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them in six days, but rested on the seventh day. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

REFLECTION Preparing for the Promised Land

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

At the center of the Law is God's love, shown in God's becoming human for our sake. This love, this grace is of more value to us than all the stuff of this world. Let us open ourselves to such love as we open our hearts to confess our sins to God.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

You give us your commandments, Holy One, so we may have new life; yet we continue to make the same old choices. Your Word can strengthen us for every moment; yet we listen to the foolish promises of the world. Forgive us, Redeemer God: may our every word be shaped by your Word; may our thoughts be refined by your grace; may we be led by your Spirit, that our lives may reveal your work in us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Hear this good news! When brokenhearted prayers replace piety, when we seek wholeness through the One broken for us, then we remember we are saved by God's powerful love.

All: We are healed, to bring healing to our world; we are strengthened in faith, to become spent for others; we are set free from our bondage to sin, so we may become servants of Christ. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

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.

HYMN

"Change My Heart, Oh God"

Change my heart, oh God, Make it ever true.
Change my heart oh God; May I be like You. (Repeat)

You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.

Change my heart, oh God, Make it ever true.
Change my heart oh God; May I be like You.

CCLI Song # 1565 Eddie Espinosa © 1982 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook))

BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Trading My Sorrows"

Evans

SERVING

TODAY – MARCH 7

NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 14

Dave Williams	Liturgist	Linda Pongstingle
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
Dave Williams	Special Music	Richard Densmore

The steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Elena Joyce on March 3rd!
With Love, the Joyce Family

Happy 11th Birthday March 2nd to Mikey Craig
With love, Grammy

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Many thanks to Dave Williams for joining us for today's worship service!



Happy Birthday today to Jim Dettmer, Ryan Heinrich, and Dallas Brammer!

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OFFERINGS RECEIVED



Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received	\$ 2,731.50
Difference	(-\$ 917.87)

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

Additional song credits

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) CCLI Song # 6016351 Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman © 2011 Atlas Mountain Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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Trading My Sorrows CCLI Song # 2574653 Darrell Evans © 1998 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook))

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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.

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 Mihlack, 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 Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (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.



Our love and prayers are extended to **Billie Jo Cantrell**, whose son, **John Paul**, died on February 2, 2021. He had diabetes for a very long time, and it led to his having a severe heart attack.

LENTEN PRAYER AND MEDITATION—



The sanctuary of the church will be open on Sunday mornings, March 7th and March 14th from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. 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.

CHURCH LOCKS

The outdoor locks to the church, including the parking lot doors, the Royalton Road doors, and the kitchen have been changed. Church officers: please contact the office to be issued a new key.



The popular devotional guides, *The Upper Room*, are available at the church for anyone who would like to pick one up. The March/April edition is out and we have a few of left of the January/February edition as well. These devotional booklets come in regular pocket size or large print and are free of charge.

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!**

IT'S A GIRL!



Welcome to the world, **Charlotte Ann Boden**, who was born on February 26, 2021 at 7 lbs 7.5 oz., 20 1/4 inches, and congratulations to parents **Katelyn (Deertz)** and **Vince Boden**. Congratulations also to grandmother **Lori Deertz**, grandfather **Dave Deertz**, and great grandmother, **Marty Winch!** We wish many blessings on this new addition to our church family!



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