

United Church of Christ in North Hampton
Order of Worship ~ March 26, 2020

You are invited to participate by singing the hymns, reciting the bold print and of course, by praying.

Participants in Today's Service
Rev. Mike Gelsomini, Pastor and Teacher
Mary Oliver, Music Director
Joanne O'Connor, Special Musician
Jacob Higgins, Worship Leader

Prelude	Siciliano from "Sonata No. 2 in E Major" Joanne O'Connor on flute	J. S. Bach
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Lenten Candles

We worship a forgiving God.

And we wait and trust in God's promises.

As we extinguish the fifth Lenten candle, we recall how our desires of the mind crowd out God's Holy Spirit.

As a result, we deprive ourselves of God's gift of peace and new life.

Through Christ, God came to give us that gift

if we desire God instead of things of the world.

Let us pray.

O God, we realize that we get so caught up in the ways of the world that we forget your divine love and power. Help us to discover that wonderful divine peace that can only come from your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

Introit – This is the Day

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

In silent sanctuaries, in our homes or apartments, wherever we are in these moments of worship, early each morning, God waits to greet us with joy and wonder.

We awake to find ourselves enveloped in grace.

During these days of isolation and worry, in this time of uncertainty and fear, Jesus challenges us with the possibility of faith.

Even in these times of safe distancing and caring for others, as well as ourselves, we can offer healing and hope to others.

In the shadowed evenings when fear lurks outside, and we long to hear the lullabies of grace, the Spirit is with us.

The Light of life shines on us from early morning until we say our prayers, comforting us in the shadows of sleep.

Hymn #25

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

*Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.*

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home.*

Gathering Prayer (Lighting of Unity Candles)

Compassionate God,

The wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you. One breath from you and we are rescued from the arid valley of dry bones, given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you, and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children. Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks to us to be death may be revealed as but sleep before the emergence of new life. Amen.

Prayers of the People, Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Anthem

An Cailin Fionn (*Natasha*)
Joanne O'Connor on flute

Phil Coulter

Scripture: John 11: 1 - 45

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,^[a] "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus^[b] was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin,^[c] said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus^[d] had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles^[e] away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.^[f] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,^[g] the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Sermon – “God is My Help”

Offering – A Moment of Silent Reflection to Give Thanks to God

Hymn #192

¹**When Jesus wept, the falling tear**

²**in mercy flowed beyond all bound;**

³**When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear**

⁴**seized all the guilty world around.**

Sending and Benediction

Now go to take the love of God into the world.

We will show others the way to God's fields of grace.

Now go to take the grace of Jesus into the world.

We will seek to bring others to the still waters of peace.

Now go to take the community of the Spirit into the world.

We will work to restore the lives of all whom we meet.

Benediction Response

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator, children all are we,

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Postlude

Minuet (not the Dance) of the Blessed Spirits

Gluck

Resources

Worship Resources: UCC Worship Ways and Thom M. Shuman

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Online Giving Resources:

Link to UCCNH give webpage: www.uccnorthhampton.org/give

QR Code to scan and bring up app on your phone:

