



ASHVILLE  
**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ**  
*Jesus • Justice • Prayer • Peace*

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
March 29, 2020, 10:30 am

PRELUDE

*Gavotte from the Fifth French Suite*

by J. S. Bach

WELCOME

PREPARE . . .

SILENCE

TRINITY CHIME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Last week, we heard about septuagenarian, Marion Sheppard.

**The blind dancer! Or maybe we should say, the dancer, who happens to be blind.**

Yes. When she began going blind, Marion realized she had two choices--she could surrender to the darkness...

**Or she could dance!**

Marion chose to dance. *Then* she started teaching dance classes to other people who are visually impaired.

**Line dances and the Electric Slide!**

As a kind of darkness descends on us right now, we also have a choice. Will we surrender to the darkness, or will we...

**We choose to dance!**

Let's dance!

## HYMN OF PRAISE

## *I Danced in the Morning*

## SIMPLE GIFTS

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I cam down from heaven and I danced on the Earth;  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

### *Refrain:*

Dance, then wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they would not follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
They came with me and the dance went on. *Refrain*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
The whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
And they left me there on a cross to die. *Refrain*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;  
But I am the dance and I still go on. *Refrain*

They cut me down and I leap up high;  
I am the life that will never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he. *Refrain*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE<sup>1</sup>

One fact remains that does not change, God has loved you, loves you now, and will always love you. This is the good news that brings us new life. **Thanks be to God!**

## SONG

## *I Feel Good!*

James Brown

LISTEN . . .

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Kim Buchanan

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you, **And also with you.**

SONG<sup>2</sup>

*Give Peace*

Taizé

The musical notation consists of three staves (A, B, and C) in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. Staff A has a dotted half note followed by a dotted quarter note. Staff B has a dotted half note followed by a dotted quarter note. Staff C has a dotted half note followed by a dotted quarter note. The lyrics are: "Da pa - cem cor - di - um. Da pa - cem cor - di - um. Da Give pa peace, - cem. God Da Give pa peace, - cem. God". The lyrics are repeated in a staggered fashion across the three staves.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 11:1-45

If you respond to these words, then for you they have become the word of the still-speaking God. **Thanks be to God!**

SONG

*When Jesus Wept*  
Kim Buchanan, Allen Mullinax

William Billings

REFLECTION

*Fast Forward to Resurrection*

Rev. Dr. Kimberleigh Buchanan

RESPOND . . .

SILENCE

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

This is my prayer to God. **Your prayer is now our prayer.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

PRAYER OF JESUS

Eternal Spirit Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. **Amen.**

*New Zealand Prayerbook*

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Mazurka in A Minor, Op. 68*

by Frédéric Chopin

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Christ all creatures here below  
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter  
One God, Triune, whom we adore.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>3</sup>

O God of humankind and all of creation accept these offerings both generous and humble as heartfelt gratitude for all that you have provided us and as our pledge to continue your work in the world in these troubled times. Help us to feel new flesh added to our sinew and breath restored to our spirit as we renew our commitment to roll away the stones of apathy and despair, call forth those paralyzed by fear and uncertainty, and unbind the oppressed by loosening the trappings of poverty, prejudice, and injustice. May our lives reflect the joy of faith in a story bigger than our own, hope in times of despair, and a perspective wider than this age. We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ our guide and mentor. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings*

BEGINNINGS

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,  
Time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
Can make for us a world of difference, As faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, Step from the past and leave behind  
Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, Seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us, To show and share what love can do.  
This is our day of new beginnings, Our God is making all things new.

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*On the Beautiful Blue Danube*

by Johann Strauss

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2. Words and music: Jacques Berthier ©1982, 1991, Les Presses de Taizé (France), admin by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved
3. Phil Adams

## OUR MISSION

We believe God calls us to:

Embody a forward-thinking, courageous, and diverse Christian community.

Follow the ways of Jesus the Christ as a grace-filled, spiritual congregation. Practice affirming and radical hospitality. Engage our local and global community with acts of love, mercy, peace, and justice.