



Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope



First Church in Windsor, UCC
February 21, 10 a.m.

**The First Sunday in Lent
Racial Justice Sunday**

Lent Theme: Through the Window: A Lenten Journey into Holy Mystery

Prelude

Welcome

Introit

Jesus the Light of the World

Words by Charles Wesley

Music by George Elderkin

**We will follow the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright,
shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.**

Call to Worship (From James Weldon Johnson's "In the Quiet Wood")

- One: Are you bowed down in heart?
Do you but hear the clashing discords and the din of life?
- Two: Then come away, come to the peaceful wood,
Here bathe your soul in silence. Listen! Now,
From out the palpitating solitude**
- One: Do you not catch, yet faint, elusive strains?
They are above, around, within you, everywhere.
- Two: Silently listen! Clear, and still more clear, they come.
They bubble up in rippling notes, and swell in singing tones.**
- One: Now let your soul run the whole gamut of the wondrous scale
Until, responsive to the tonic chord,
- Two: It touches the diapason of God's grand cathedral organ,
Filling earth for you with heavenly peace
And holy harmonies.**

Opening Hymn

Steal Away
African American spiritual
Public domain

**Refrain: Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus.
Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.**

**I hear God calling, God calls me by the thunder;
The trumpet sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.**

Refrain

**Green trees are bending, poor sinner stands a-trembling;
The trumpet sound within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.**

Refrain

**I hear God calling, God calls me by the lightning;
The trumpet sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.**

Refrain

Prayer of Confession for Lent

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Words and music by Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus
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Sing: *Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.
I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go.
You alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.*

Pastor: We know nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us, therefore, be free to confess the wrong we have done.

All: **God of mercy, as we gather to celebrate your gift of love, we recall with sorrow the times when we forget you and are divided one from another. How often our thoughts, our words, our actions have betrayed the goodness you have shown us. Forgive us, merciful God. Mend what is broken. Heal the wounded relationships that separate us from you and one another; through Jesus Christ we pray.**

Prayer of our Savior

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Pastor: While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God. Let us offer one another a sign of peace** (either virtually through the live chat, text message, or at home).

Sing: *I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.*

Mission Moment in Honor of Black History Month: The Hon. Joseph H. Rainey

Scripture

Revelation 21:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.'

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' ⁶Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children

Sermon

Pastor Nicole & Judge Kevin Washington

"Encountering the Mystery of God: Life and Death"

Hymn

God's Eye is on the Sparrow

Words by Civilla D. Martin

Music by Charles H. Gabriel

Public domain

**Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
when God is ever my portion, my constant friend will be?
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

**I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

**Let not your heart be troubled," Christ's tender word I hear,
and resting on God's goodness, I lose my doubts and fears.
Though by the path God leads me but one step I can see;
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

**I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Be Not Afraid

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Announcements

Modern Lesson

Video: "Get Home Safely: 10 Rules of Survival"

Don't miss out on the Windsor Human Relations Commission's special conversation on race titled "Generations and Family" tonight from 6 to 8 p.m. This event will feature FCW members Judge Kevin Washington and Cassie Copeland as speakers. Register [here](#).

Benediction

Postlude

Deep River
African American Spiritual
Public domain
Arr. Jane Frogley

About the video "Get Home Safely: 10 Rules of Survival"

Over twenty years ago, an important infographic, "10 Rules Of Survival If Stopped By The Police" was developed by David Miller, founder of "The Dare To Be King Project." In partnership with Christian Theological Seminary, WFYI, and Trinity United Church of Christ (on the south side of Chicago), SALT Project took Miller's rules and created this Emmy nominated short film to bring this critical information to an even wider audience and to protest the fact that this film needs to be made at all. This video is meant to be shared as widely as possible. It was produced by www.saltproject.org and is used by permission.

"Deep in the Quiet Wood" was published in James Weldon Johnson's book *Fifty Years & Other Poems* (The Cornhill Company, 1917). It is in the public domain.

The Prayer of Confession was adapted and used by permission by Colbert Cartwright and O.I. Cricket Harrison, eds. Chalice Worship. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1997.

We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Sunday, March 14. To learn more about OGHS 2021, read below. You can read more about OGHS [here](#) and can make your gift [here](#). Thank you for your generosity!

Let love flow.

Joshua Mumbi used to spend much of his time collecting water.

When it rained, he would collect water running in the streets. Often he would spend much of the day walking to a local water source and carrying back buckets. Sometimes he would even travel to the water source with his family the night before, spending the night there so that they could bring back water in the morning. His mother, Josephine, did not like to make the journey alone — it was not safe.

There was not much time to go to school. And when he did go to school, Joshua Mumbi was very tired during the day. It was hard to focus; it was hard to learn.

But thanks to your gifts through One Great Hour of Sharing, Joshua Mumbi and his family — and all of the other families in his village — have a safe, clean water source close to home. With a new solar-powered borehole well, they have water for cooking, water for drinking, water for bathing and keeping things clean and sanitary. Because you **let love flow**, water brought new life to a whole community. Now children like Joshua Mumbi and his siblings can go to school every day, and a whole world of opportunity is open to them. Now the whole community is empowered to provide for their needs, plan for their future, and pursue new opportunities for growth.

So that more communities can experience this new life, please give generously, and **let love flow**.

Water is life. Water is love. Let love flow.

Access to clean fresh water is vital for all of humanity, but for women in particular, water access means the difference between life and death for them and their families. The United Nations International Observance of **World Water Day** (March 22) reflects on the importance of water in our daily lives and remembers those who lack access to adequate drinking water supplies.

For women and girls around the world, it can be a 12 hour walk to the nearest water source to collect water to maintain basic needs and crucial hygiene practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With your support, 100 families will benefit from the Water Well project, sponsored by the United Church of Christ in Mozambique (UCCM). When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you invest in the hopeful future of women and girls around the world and serve as co-workers with God to build **a just world for all**.

