



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC  
March 7, 10 a.m.

**The Third Sunday of Lent  
Communion Sunday**

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

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: Gracious, loving God, in Jesus of Nazareth you shared our lives.

**Two: You knew the joys and the sorrows, you felt the sting of death.**

One: Gracious, loving God, in the Christ's resurrection you reveal a new hope;

**Two: A promise that in the end life wins.**

One: Gracious, loving God, in the healing of souls Jesus reveals your mercy and forgiveness.

**Two: We are unbound and set free, led into the life of eternity.**

One: God of Life, God of Grace, God of Hope, God who calls us by name;

**Opening Hymn**

*Beautiful Jesus*  
Silesian folk melody  
Public domain

**Beautiful Jesus, head of all creation,  
God and the blessed Mary's child:  
I want to love you, praise and adore you,  
joy of my soul, so long desired.**

**Beautiful springtime, lovely, green and hopeful,  
all earth exhales its sweet perfume:  
Jesus is sweeter, Jesus is purer,  
sad hearts, at this, rejoice and bloom.**

**Beautiful sunshine, clear, so lovely, moonlight,  
stars shine like angels, ranked through space:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines clearer,  
in perfect beauty, love and grace.**

## Prayer of Confession for Lent

### Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Words and music by Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus  
c 1970, Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus, admin. by Augsburg Fortress.  
All rights reserved. Printed under OneLicense.net A-725621

**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:** *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.*

## 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:** *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.*

## Children's Moment

### Scripture

Mark 1: 12-14

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

### Sermon

Pastor Nicole & Steve Porcaro

“Encountering the Mystery of God: In the Wilderness”

### Hymn

*He Will Hold Me Fast*

Words and music by Ada Habershon and Matthew Merker  
C 2013 Getty Music Publishing Co./Matthew Merker Music  
Used by permission. CCLI License #11115938

**When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast.  
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold, he must hold me fast.**

**He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast,  
For my savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.**

**Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost, his promises shall last;  
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.**

**He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast,  
For my savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.**

**Prayers of the People**

**Prayer Response**

*Be Not Afraid*

Words and music by Bob Dufford, SJ  
c 1978 Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and New Dawn Music  
Used by permission. CCLI License #11115938

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Invitation  
Words of Institution  
Sharing of the Elements

**Communion Response**

*For Everyone Born*

Words by Shirley Erena Murray  
c 1998 Hope Publishing Company  
Music by Brian Mann  
c 2006 Brian Mann  
All rights reserved

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world. May the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen**

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

## Postlude

### *Sicilienne from Suite Francaise*

By Francis Poulenc  
Public domain

\*\*\*

The Call to Worship was adapted and used by permission of Rev. Gord Waldie.

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.

## Easter Baskets

This Easter, Outreach Board will continue our tradition of giving Easter baskets to children in need in our community through Covenant to Care. If you would like to donate to this important mission, you may give online [here](#) to mail a check to the church at 107 Palisado Ave, Windsor, CT 06095. If you give by check, please be sure to write “easter baskets” in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

## One Great Hour of Sharing

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!



## Easter Plants

## Memorial

It's time to make your donation for memorial Easter plants! These plants will be part of our livestreamed worship on Easter Sunday before being distributed by volunteers to members of our church family who are confined to their homes or a care facility. The suggested donation is \$10 per plant. You can make your donation [here](#). It is important that we know who you are making your donation in honor/in memory of so be sure to fill out [this form](#).