



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC
March 14, 10 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship (adapted from Marge Piercy's "On the Birthday of the World")

One: I begin to contemplate
what I have done and left
undone, but this year
not so much rebuilding,
shoring up eroding
friendships, digging out
stumps of old resentments
that refuse to rot on their own.

**Two: No, this year I want to call
myself to task for what
I have done and not done
for peace. How much have
I dared in opposition?**

One: How much have I put
on the line for freedom?
For mine and others?

**Two: As these freedoms are pared,
sliced and diced, where
have I spoken out? Who
have I tried to move?**

One: In this holy season, I stand
self-convicted of sloth
in a time when lies choke
the mind and rhetoric
bends reason to slithering
choking pythons.

**Two: Here I stand before the gates
opening, the fire dazzling
my eyes, and as I approach
what judges me, I judge
myself.**

Opening Hymn

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder
African American spiritual
Public domain

**We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
we are climbing Jacob's ladder,
we are climbing Jacob's ladder,
bearers of the cross.**

**Every round goes higher, higher,
every round goes higher, higher,
every round goes higher, higher,
bearers of the cross.**

**Children, do you love my Jesus.
children, do you love my Jesus,
children, do you love my Jesus,
bearers of the cross?**

**If you love him, why not serve him,
if you love him, why not serve him,
if you love him why not serve him,
bearers of the cross?**

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.*

Children's Moment

Scripture

Genesis 28: 10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

Sermon

Pastor Nicole & Carmen Rincon

"Encountering the Mystery of God: In Awe of God"

Hymn

De Colores
Mexican folk song
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**Sing of colors, sing of colors that over the hills
in profusion are springing;
sing of colors, of the birds that fly outside my window
their canticles singing;
sing of colors, in the rainbow's bright colors
God's promise of hope we recall.**

**Sing of colors that make up the earth
and give thanks to the God who created us all.
Sing of colors that make up the earth
and give thanks to the God who created us all.**

**Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that breathes raise a song
to the God of creation.
Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares,
who has offered salvation.
Sing the good news! Sing the love of the Savior
reflecting the colors of all.**

**Many colors that shine from God's face,
many colors that tell us God's love to recall.
Many colors that shine from God's face,
many colors that tell us God's love to recall.**

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Be Not Afraid
Words and music by Bob Dufford, SJ
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Announcements

One Great Hour of Sharing

You can read more about OGHS [here](#) and can make your gift [here](#). Thank you for your generosity!

Benediction

Postlude

Melody for Piano, Opus 4, #2
By Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel
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In honor of Women's History Month, we will be featuring music and poems throughout the month written or composed by women

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The Call to Worship is adapted from the poem "The Birthday of the World" from The Crooked Inheritance. Copyright © 2006 by Marge Piercy.

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!

Easter Memorial Plants

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](#).