



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



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

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship (adapted from Mary Oliver's "The Summer Day")

One: Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?

**Two: This grasshopper, I mean-
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down-
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.**

One: Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

**Two: I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.**

One: Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

**Two: Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?**

Opening Hymn

We Are Standing on Holy Ground
Words and music by Geron Davis
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**We are standing on Holy Ground,
And I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now.
We are standing in his presence on Holy Ground.**

**Yes, we're standing on Holy Ground,
And I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now.
We are standing in his presence on Holy Ground.**

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

Exodus 3:1-12

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' ⁵Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' ¹¹But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' ¹²He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

Sermon

Pastor Nicole & Deb Berry

“Encountering the Mystery of God: Standing on Holy Ground”

Hymn

Many and Great

Native American melody (Dakota)

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**Many and great, O God, are your works,
Maker of earth and sky;
Your hands have set the heavens with stars,
your fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at your word the waters were formed;
deep seas obey your voice.**

**Grant unto us communion with you,
O star abiding One;
Come unto us and dwell with us:
with you are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
eternal life with you.**

**Many and great, O God, are your works,
Maker of earth and sky;
Your hands have set the heavens with stars,
your fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at your word the waters were formed;
deep seas obey your voice.**

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Be Not Afraid

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Announcements

Benediction

Postlude

Passacaglia

By Luigi Rossi
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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

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.

The Call to Worship is adapted from the poem "The Summer Day" from New and Selected Poems, by Mary Oliver. 1992 Beacon Press, Boston, MA

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](#).

Palms

Palms will be available for collection from outside the Meetinghouse beginning at 9 a.m. on Palm Sunday, March 28.