



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany: Seeking Wisdom**

February 6, 2022, at 10 a.m.

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship (Psalm 71)**

One: Listen to the good news. God is with us, this day and every day.

Two: **Because God is with us, we can face each day with courage. We can find something good in everything, for we are never completely alone.**

One: God's goodness sometimes seems to trickle, and sometimes a mighty flood. But God is always with us

Two: **We worship you, O God. We praise you with our songs. We seek you in our prayers. We offer ourselves to you**

**\*Hymn**

*As the Deer*

Words and music by Martin J. Nystrom

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**As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.  
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.**

**You're my friend and you are my brother even though you are a king.  
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.  
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.**

**I want you more than gold or silver; only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joygiver and the apple of my eye.  
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.**

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Generous God, you grant us bread for our bodies and grace that is renewed every day. In these uncertain times, help us to trust you more fully, living one day at a time, loving and serving as we can. Cheer our hearts with the knowledge that we are precious to you. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

## **\*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**

## **Children's Moment**

### **Passing of the Peace**

*Let us greet one another with a sharing the peace of Christ by writing a comment under the livestream video or by sending a message.*

## **Scripture**

I Samuel 25 (selections)

<sup>3</sup>Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was clever and beautiful, but the man was surly and mean.

So David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, 'Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name. <sup>6</sup>Thus you shall salute him: "Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have."

When David's young men came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David; and then they waited. <sup>10</sup>But Nabal answered David's servants, 'Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who are breaking away from their masters.'

But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, 'David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he shouted insults at them...Now therefore know this and consider what you should do; he is so ill-natured that no one can speak to him.'

<sup>18</sup>Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves, two skins of wine, five sheep ready dressed, five measures of parched grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs. She loaded them on donkeys <sup>19</sup>and said to her young men, 'Go on ahead of me; I am coming after you.' But she did not tell her husband Nabal. <sup>20</sup>As she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, David and his men came down towards her; and she met them. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>23</sup>When Abigail saw David, she hurried and alighted from the donkey, and fell before David on her face, bowing to the ground. <sup>24</sup>She fell at his feet and said, 'Upon me alone, my lord, be the guilt; please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. <sup>25</sup>My lord, do not take seriously this ill-natured fellow Nabal; for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him; but I, your servant, did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent.

David said to Abigail, 'Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who sent you to meet me today!...' <sup>35</sup>Then David received from her hand what she had brought him; he said to her, 'Go up to your house in peace; see, I have heeded your voice, and I have granted your petition.'

<sup>38</sup>About ten days later the Lord struck Nabal, and he died.

Then David sent and wooed Abigail, to make her his wife. <sup>40</sup>When David's servants came to Abigail at Carmel, they said to her, 'David has sent us to you to take you to him as his wife.' <sup>42</sup>Abigail got up hurriedly and rode away on a donkey; her five maids attended her. She went after the messengers of David and became his wife.

**Sermon**

Pastor Nicole

**\*Hymn**

“The Wisdom of Abigail”

*Ride On, King Jesus*  
African-American spiritual  
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**Prayers of the People**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Prayer Response**

*Lead Me*  
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**Lead me, guide me, along the way,  
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Communion Response**

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**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**God of Light and Love, we cherish this table in this season when the nights are long and cold. Through this meal, the Christ, and our neighbors, our hearts have warmed. May the comfort in our souls sustain us through winter and encourage us to create welcoming spaces for our neighbors. With gratitude, we leave here energized to kindle your love in this world. Amen.**

**Announcements**

If you wish, you may give online [here](#).

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*  
African-American spiritual  
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\*Please stand as you are able  
**Bolded Font** to be read by all