



First Church in Windsor, UCC: *Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope*

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023, at 10 a.m.**

**Holy Vessels: Seeking Wholeness During the Season of Lent
*A Jar of Clay is a Holy Vessel***

Prelude

Song

Sweet Hour of Prayer
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Played by the Bell Choir

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Song

10,000 Reasons
By Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman
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**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
worship your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship your holy name,
worship your holy name,
worship your holy name.**

Opening Prayer of Confession

**God of All Possibilities,
Made in your image, you have tasked us as co-creators of a better world. You bestowed
imagination and the ability to learn and progress.
But we are tired. Our energy wanes and enthusiasm wanes.
The call for ideas, solutions, work-arounds and adaptations has been non-stop for us all.
Too often we want to give up, declare it all too hard and simply isolate,
waiting out the time for better days.
It all feels overwhelming and so we look away,
sometimes even from the need in our own community.**

**Help us, O God.
Show us our energy reserves..
Move us to move**

one step at a time toward greater care for one another.

In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness. Amen.

Assurance

Passing of the Peace

Response: **And also with you.**

Please make sure to wave to our online community, send a text message of peace to someone, or pass the peace in the chat on Facebook.

Hymn

Change My Heart, O God

Words and music by Eddie Espinosa

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Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the potter, I am the clay.

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

Take all my talents, take all my skill.

A brand new vessel, made to do your will.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism: Joseph and Sean Eichner

Today we welcome Joseph and Sean Eichner, sons of Allison and Daniel Eichner into our church family through water baptism. Welcome Eichner Family, we're glad you're here!

Questions of then Candidates

Congregational Promise

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Act of Baptism

Children's Moment

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

Scripture

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

¶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ¶But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

Matthew 6: 19-23

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²²"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; ²³but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

"Treasure in Clay Jars"

Anthem

My Song Will Be for You Forever

By Marty Haugen

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Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

Make Us Holy

Words and music by Mark Friedman

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**In your love, make us whole, may we rest in your compassion.
Calm the lost weary soul in the warmth of your love.
May your peace fill our hearts. May we know the love of Jesus.
By your grace, you console. Make us holy, make us whole.**

Announcements

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is now being received.
You can contribute [online](#) or use the envelopes in your pews.

Online Giving

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. If you wish, you may give online [here](#).

Song

Be Glorified

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Played by the Bell Choir

Hymn

As a Fire is Meant for Burning

Words by Ruth Duck

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**As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.**

**We are learners, we are teachers, we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers, we are givers, we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, list'ning Spirit, we would live to God's delight.**

**As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
So may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.**

Benediction

Postlude

Beach Spring

American traditional

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