



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

**The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2023, at 10 a.m.**

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

Prelude

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

**You are the God who creates the heavens and the earth
– galaxies of stars and planets, more than we can number
– flowers and birds and animals more varied than we can fathom
– human beings in such rich diversity
Generous God, take from us all fear that you will not provide enough
enough jobs
enough money
enough courage
enough people.**

**Move us into your abundant grace,
so we live as trees planted by the waters of life,
rooted and grounded in your love,
bearing fruit over and over.**

**We ask in the name of Jesus,
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

Christians, We Have Met to Worship

Words by George Atkins

Music by William Moore

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**Christians, we have met to worship and adore the living God.
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down.
Christians, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.**

**Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace and filled with fears?
Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears?
Tell them all about the Savior, how in Christ the lost are found.
Pray, oh, pray, and holy manna will be scattered all around.**

**Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too.
Let us pray for all earth's people till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven, at the table we'll sit down;
Christ will welcome us and serve us living manna all around.**

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

Deuteronomy 26: 1-4

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God,

Matthew 14: 13-21

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

"Put It on a Basket"

Anthem

I Believe

By Mark A. Miller

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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 souls
In the warmth of your love,
May your peace fill our hearts
May we know the love of Jesus
By your grace you console
May 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](#).

Hymn

All Good Things

Words by Ruth Duck

Words and music by Stephen Schwartz
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**We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.
God sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.**

**All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all this love.**

**We thank thee then, Creator, for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts,
but that which thou desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.**

**All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all this love.**

Benediction

Postlude

Sheep May Safely Graze

By J.S. Bach
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