

*WELCOME to worship at United Church of Christ in Norwell. Whether you are a member or affiliate member of our church, a frequent attendee, or a first time visitor, we are truly glad you are here and invite you to participate in the many opportunities for worship, growth and service. We hope you will find your time here to be meaningful and the congregation welcoming. At the conclusion of the postlude, please join us for conversation and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.*

LISTENING DEVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, AND LARGE PRINT HYMNALS ARE AVAILABLE. An usher or deacon would be happy to assist you with any of these needs. A CD of this morning's service will be available for \$2.00 in the sound room (back left corner of the sanctuary), or you may borrow a copy through the church library.

**The Deacons** today are Larry Howell and Bob Hawk.

**The flowers** today are given by Connie and Eliot Beal in loving memory of her brother William R. Crosbie.

**Child care** for infants through grade two is available downstairs in rooms 10 and 7.

**Activity bags are available for children** to use in the library (a Deacon or usher can direct assist you). Audio of the worship service can be heard in the library as well. Please note that a parent must remain with their child(ren) in the library to supervise them.

**"Prayer Chairs"** (with prayer shawls on them) are located in the back right corner of the sanctuary. You are invited to come to them any time during our service. A prayer partner from our Healing and Wholeness Ministry Team will lay hands on your shoulders and *silently* pray for you. You do not need to tell them your specific prayer concern, unless you choose to do so.

**Parking notes:** The front driveway and rear parking lot have reserved spaces for handicapped parking. Also, some members require easier access through the front door. Please save the entire front driveway and marked spaces in back for those who really need them.

**Flower donations:** A sign-up calendar is located in Fellowship Hall *on the bulletin board near the doorway to the elevator and back stairs*. You will receive a form a few weeks before the date you have signed up for inquiring about details for your donation (flowers cost \$35).

**Allergy Alert!** - We have children in our church community who have life-threatening allergies to nuts and eggs. Did you know that a simple smear of peanut butter (*or the oils not washed away with soap*) can cause a child to stop breathing within 1-2 minutes? (Anti-bacterial wipes or instant hand sanitizers *do not* take care of the problem.) Thank you for your help!

**Church School for Children and Youth:** (Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) meets at 9:00am downstairs. Our "Happenings..." faith formation group for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades meets in room 1.

**The Memory Lane Singers' Schedule:** Join us and help spread joy on these Mondays, 2-3pm. Bring your friends! *No singing experience necessary!* Call Kay Spurr, 781-545-6405, if you have questions:

**Scituate Life Care:** March 20, April 10, May 1, June 5

**Norwell Royal:** April 3, May 8, June 12

**Scituate Cardigan:** March 27, April 17, May 22, June 26



**United Church of Christ, Congregational**  
*An Open and Affirming Church*

**Ministers to the World**  
**Ministers to the Congregation**

**All the Congregation**  
**All the Staff**

**March 12, 2017**

**10:00 a.m.**

We Gather in God's Name

### CALL OF THE BELL

### WELCOME

Anne Marie Holloway

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### \*HYMN

*We're Gathered Here*

Gary Johnson

We're gathered here because we all love Jesus;  
We're in this place to glorify His name.  
Our hearts reach out to touch the living God,  
Because we love the Lord we're gathered here today.

We're gathered here to sing our songs and hymns of praise;  
We're in this place to hear the Word of God.  
Our minds reach out: oh, fill them with Your thoughts, Lord!  
Because we love the Lord we're gathered here today.

We're gathered here because we're all one body;  
We're in this place because we share His love.  
Our hands reach out: a symbol of our offering,  
Because we love the Lord we're gathered here today.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Matt Hawk

**God of Steadfast love,**

**You have generously sown seeds of faith in our very own hearts.**

**We tend to forget that we too play a role in the vitality of our faith.**

**We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves**

**in planting seeds of faith in the lives of others;**

**the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours;**

**the times when we have denied others the opportunities to expand their faith through our lack of interest or involvement;**

**the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world that we forget what you have said and done and promised. We know that when we become disconnected from you, our lives become parched and unfruitful and our faith becomes parched and dry. Bless and renew our lives, we pray, so that we remain connected to you at all times and in all places, strengthening our faith to expand and grow in order to bear the fruit of your mercy, and your love. Amen.**  
 Silent Confession

**ASSURANCE AND PARDON**

God tends to us in steadfast love,  
 unending mercy and eternal faithfulness;  
 God cultivates a life for us that is fed through  
 boundless forgiveness!  
 In Christ this faithful love is planted in our hearts.  
 Hear this good news! We are loved, we are forgiven!  
 Thanks be to God!

**ANTHEM** *Give Me a Faith* Roberta Bitgood

We Receive God's Word

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 13: 1-20

**SERMON** *Tiny Starts and Unimaginable Endings* Anne Marie Holloway

**\*HYMN** *Faith While Trees Are Still in Blossom* *KINGDOM*

We Respond to God's Love

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Matt Hawk

Response (all) *#576 My Faith Looks Up to Thee v.1* *OLIVET*

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!  
 Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;  
 Oh, let me from this day be wholly thine.

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR RESOURCES**

Offertory *Living for Jesus* C. Harold Lowden

*Please sign and pass the Red Book (in aisle seats) so we may greet each other by name. If you are with us for the first time, please add your contact information.*

\*Doxology *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*Prayer of Dedication

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

\***THE LORD'S PRAYER** (debts/debtors) Hand in Hand

\***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

\***HYMN** *#552 Standing on the Promises v. 1, 2, 4* *PROMISES*

\***BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Walking in Faith* James Mansfield  
 Karen Harvey, organ

(Please remain seated and enjoy the Postlude music.)

\*Standing to praise God

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*We are a Christ-centered inclusive community called to ministry.*