



TOGETHER FOR JOY

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN LONGMEADOW
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

✂ *Those who are able, please stand.*

Welcome

Spotlight

Mission Trip Fundraiser, Khaleigh Laicher

Preludes: "Lamb of God" Twila Paris

Opening Prayer

✂ Call to Worship

Leader: I was glad when the people said,

People: "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Leader: I was glad when the people said,

People: "We give thanks to the name of the Lord."

Leader: My heart rejoiced when the people said,

People: "Peace be with you."

Leader: I knew that the Lord's spirit was alive here when they said,

People: "For the sake of the Lord our God, we seek the good of all people." - Inspired by Psalm 122

Sharing the Peace of Christ

✂ **Hymn:** #12 New Century Hymnal (Black)

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God" ELLACOMBE

Children are invited forward with teachers

A Message for All Ages

Elaine Booke

Children are dismissed to Church School

Scripture: Psalm 98 (NRSVue)

John Thomas, Liturgist

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm

have gotten him victory.
The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.
Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Sermon: "Together for Joy"

Rev. Dr. Jim Latimer

Anthem: "O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Moonyeen
Albrecht
Chancel Choir

Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts/sins/trespases)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

Prayer Response (Insert)

"Make Me a Servant" Kelly Willard

3/4

F Dm⁷ Gm⁷ C⁷ Gm⁷

Make me a ser - vant, hum - ble and meek. Lord, let me

6 B^b/C C⁷ B^b/F F F²sus F A Dm Dm/C G²/B

lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart al - ways

12 B^bm⁶ F/A Gm⁷ F/A

be: Make me a ser - vant, make me a

16 Gm⁷ F/C C⁷sus F²

ser - vant, make me a ser - vant to - day.

Call to Offering

Offertory: Original Improvisation on ST COLUMBA by Daniel Rose

✠ Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God for all that love has done: Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Announcements

✠ Hymn: #562 New Century Hymnal (Black)

"Take My Gifts" TALAVERA TERRACE

✠ Benediction

Postlude: "O Worship the King" Arr. Philip Keveren

Today's Worship Leaders:

Daniel Rose, Director of Music Ministries

John Thomas, Liturgist

Stan Zdonick, Technical Editor/Director

Elaine Booke, Children's Message

Chancel Choir

Rev. Dr. Jim Latimer, Interim Minister



The Altar Scape for the Lenten Season helps to remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert where he experienced many challenges.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS) 2023 **SPECIAL OFFERING TODAY!**

This year's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) theme, "It's Time to Share," is compelling as it calls us to share with others, from our resources, and to remain steadfast in doing good.

Through the collective sharing of our resources, the United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries assists partners in the United States and worldwide in alleviating challenges like poverty, injustice, the climate crisis, and the global movement of people (refugees, migrants) seeking a stable place to call home.

As the suggested OGHS offering Sunday (March 19) approaches, we are grateful for your concern for tragedies like the ones unfolding in Turkey and Syria, and the continued conflict in Ukraine, and for your inquiries about how the offering supports those who are affected. Wider Church Ministries continues to work with global partners to provide aid through your gifts to the appeals and to OGHS, to ensure that *we work for the benefit of all* (Gal. 6:10) in response to current humanitarian crises and in preparation for future emergencies.

Thank you for your generosity! Together, we are working towards creating *a just world for all*



Participate in the First Church tradition of placing Easter plants on the Altar on Easter Sunday. Please fill out the form below and your sentiments will be included at the services of worship on Sunday, April 9th.

A donation of \$15.00 is requested for each plant, and all forms must be in the church office by Sunday, April 2nd

All plants are delivered to the homebound and nursing home residents. Thank you!

Given by _____

In loving memory of:

*Checks can be made out to First Church of Christ, Longmeadow.
Include "Easter Flowers" in the memo line, and mail to 763
Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106*

First Church of Christ in Longmeadow

Events Overview

Please view our updated website!

firstchurchlongmeadow.org

❖ **CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS GOING FORWARD**

During the month of March, the Leadership Team is offering two opportunities for Crucial Conversations.

- On Sunday, March 19, the topic will be: “Healing after the loss of Pam, Marisa and Dan”

Conversations will be held in the Buxton Room following the worship service. Please bring your coffee and snack from Bailey Hall and join Rev. Jim and several Leadership Team members. Ann Smith, Chairperson of the Search Team, will be available for the “Debrief” on March 12. You do NOT need to preregister. Our Moderator, Mora Geoffrion looks forward to these discussions.

- ❖ Altar Flower Sponsorship. You can sponsor Altar Flowers on Sunday in memory of your loved one for a small donation. Please contact Carole Mazzarino at 567-5686 or email her camazz42@comcast.net.

Dismantling Racism Book Discussions

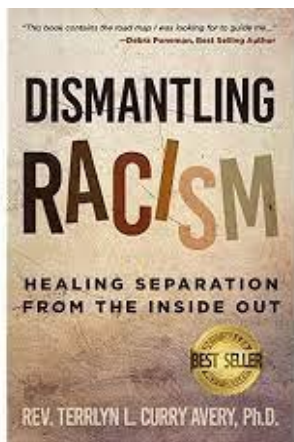
Sunday, March 19th @ 3:00 PM
in the Buxton Room

The Social Justice Team and Adult Education Team of First Church invite you to a book discussion of ***“Dismantling Racism: Healing Separation from the Inside Out”*** by the Rev. Terrlyn Curry-Avery, Ph.D.

Rev. Dr. Curry Avery is the pastor of Martin Luther King Jr. Community Presbyterian Church in Springfield. Her church was set ablaze at the end of 2020. She is also a licensed psychologist and author of several other books.

Signed copies of the book are available in the church office for \$17.00 each (purchased from the Olive Tree Bookstore on Hancock St. in Springfield, a small Black-owned independent bookstore). You may pay cash or write a check made out to “First Church of Christ, Longmeadow” and left in the envelope that is with the books.

Please get your book and join us!





Join our Music Programs!



Please consider joining the First Church Longmeadow Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, or both! All are welcome, whether you're returning, or this is your first time trying anything like this. Email Daniel Rose with questions or for more information: daniel@firstchurchlongmeadow.org

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Meets

The fourth Monday of each month at 10am. Please join us! For more information, please contact Carole Mazzarino at camazz42@comcast.net

Please join us to knit and carry out God' mission of helping others. The Prayer Shawl Ministry knitters make prayer shawls for those who are on the path to healing or for loved ones who are in need of some extra comfort. We have already donated more than 800 shawls! All levels of knitters are welcome. Please bring your own supplies if you have them. This is a wonderful way to meet new people and to make a difference in the world. "Our Hands Are God's Hands"

**First Church of Christ in Longmeadow
763 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106
413-567-6287
www.firstchurchlongmeadow.org**

Calling All Compassionate Cookers!

Have you been the recipient of meals cooked by someone who cares when going through a tough time?

The First Church Meal Train provides this comfort to all friends who need it. Participation is easy! Cookers receive an email when meals are needed and sign up to cook and deliver a meal as they are able. Prepared foods and delivery services work as well.

Email Karen Rafferty at mamaraff@comcast.net to be added to the Meal Train notification app.
Recipients of your generosity will be so grateful!

Embraced by the love of God in Christ, our mission is to love and serve our world. We seek to grow in Christ's family through our journey – inward toward faith and knowledge, outward toward love and justice – always rooted and nurtured in worship.

We, the First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, strive to live out our stated mission to seek love and justice in our world. We welcome persons of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation; mental, physical, emotional, economic and social status, and circumstances of life into the full participation and ministry of our church.

1/12/03, 8/8/04, ~~8/28/05~~ 9/18/05, 8/20/06

6/27/10,

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

7/16/17, 4/29/18, 1/2/20, 7/8/21

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

Descant

3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
 3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

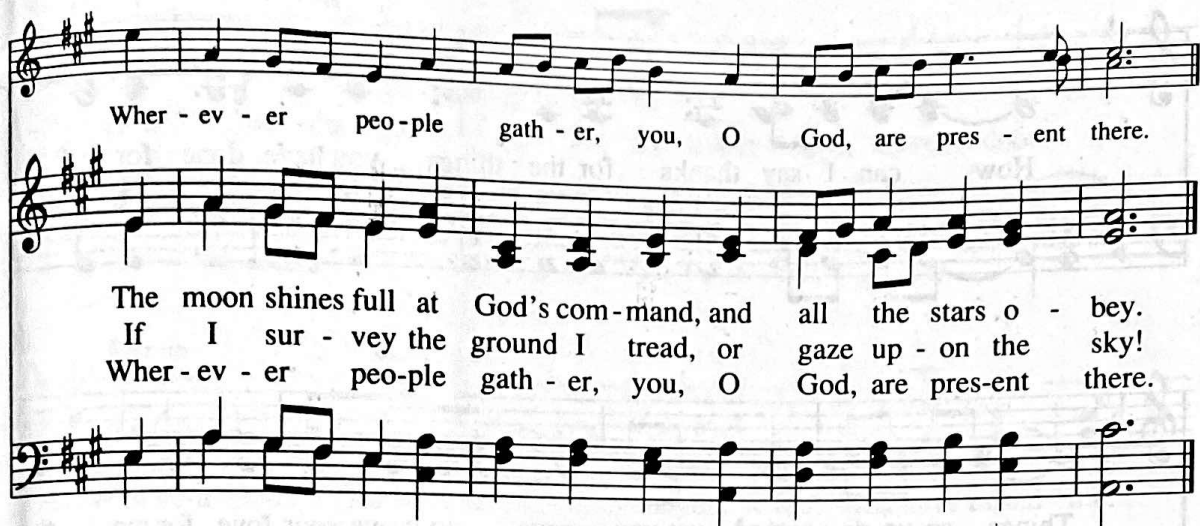
That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
 The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Oh, how your won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye:
 All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

The tune Ellacombe was named for a place in Devonshire, England. It was first published in a collection of tunes used in the private chapel of the Duke of Wirtemberg, and was possibly sung with the text "Ave Maria, klärer."

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen
 Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784
 Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993



Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The moon shines full at God's com - mand, and all the stars o - bey.
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

O My Soul, Bless Your Creator

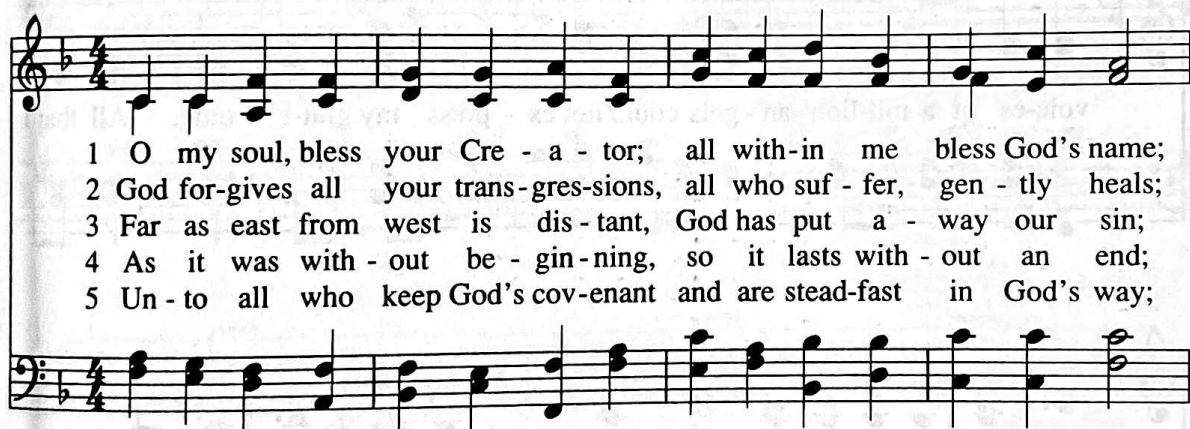
9/13/08
6/24/18

13

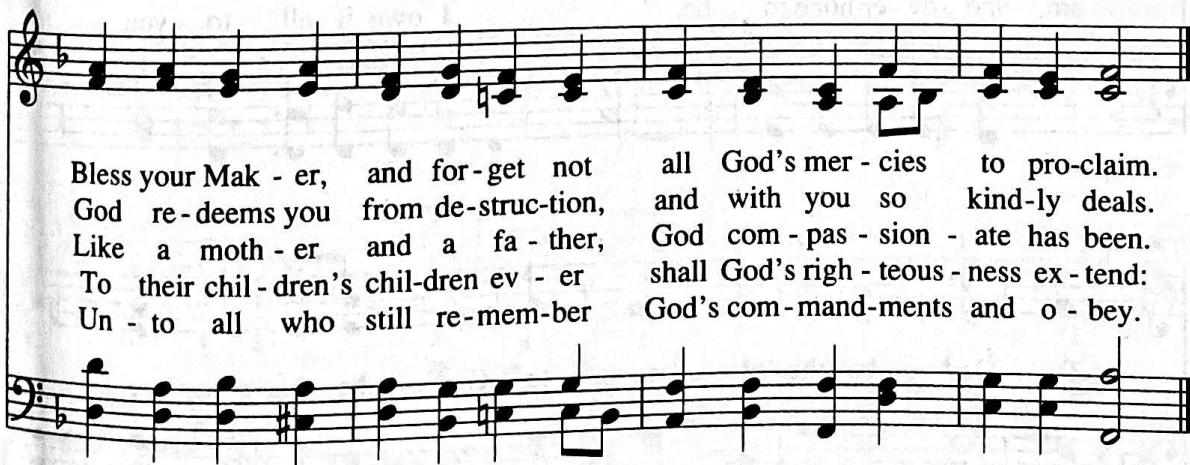
Anon.

Ps. 103

United Presbyterian Book of Psalms, 1871; alt.



1 O my soul, bless your Cre - a - tor; all with-in me bless God's name;
2 God for-gives all your trans-gres-sions, all who suf - fer, gen - tly heals;
3 Far as east from west is dis - tant, God has put a - way our sin;
4 As it was with - out be - gin - ning, so it lasts with - out an end;
5 Un - to all who keep God's cov - enant and are stead - fast in God's way;



Bless your Mak - er, and for-get not all God's mer - cies to pro-claim.
God re-deems you from de-struc-tion, and with you so kind-ly deals.
Like a moth - er and a fa - ther, God com - pas - sion - ate has been.
To their chil - dren's chil-dren ev - er shall God's righ - teous - ness ex - tend:
Un - to all who still re-mem-ber God's com - mand - ments and o - bey.

Psalm 103, a beautiful psalm of thanksgiving for God's forgiveness and steadfast love, is summed up in the lines of this hymn. The author of the paraphrase is unknown.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Attrib. to Christian F. Witt
Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

Make Me A Servant

Words and Music by
Kelly Willard

♩ = 82

F

Dm⁷

Gm⁷

C⁷

Gm⁷

Make me a ser - vant, hum - ble and meek. Lord, let me

This system contains the first five measures of the song. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

6

Bb/C C⁷

Bb/F F F^{2sus}

F

A

Dm

Dm/C

G²/B

lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart al - ways

This system contains measures 6 through 11. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass line continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

12

Bbm⁶

F/A

Gm⁷

F/A

be: Make me a ser - vant, make me a

This system contains measures 12 through 15. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass line continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

16

Gm⁷

F/C

C^{7sus}

F²

ser - vant, make me a ser - vant to - day.

This system contains measures 16 through 19. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass line continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The final measure of the system has a double bar line.

CCLI Song # 33131

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Take My Gifts

Shirley Erena Murray, 1991

STEWARDSHIP AND CREATION

562

6/29/03 7/31/05 12/26/08 2/11/18
10/22/06 6/7/09 5/19/19 Music Sunday
6/15/08 10/10/10 2/9/20

1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
3 Take what-ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,

gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,

now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Shirley Erena Murray recounted that Colin Gibson composed this tune for her stewardship text "almost instantaneously." Gibson has served as professor at the University of Otago, as well as organist and choir director in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.

Colin Gibson, 1991

Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA