

BROOKSIDE

Congregational Church

Room to Grow, to Serve, for You.



March 27, 2022 – 10:00 AM
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Rev. Laura Biddle, Minister
Kimberly Wertz, Interim Music Director
Louise Popp, Church Administrator

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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*Please Stand

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The **flowers** this morning are given by Martha Cushing in loving memory of her husband, Earl. Flowers are also given by Ethelda Chamberlain in loving memory of her parents, George and Mattie Towle, and her brothers and sisters.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God summons us to wake up and see the light of Christ.

People: We are encouraged to not give up too soon. The journey begins anew today.

Leader: Our eyes have been opened to God's goodness. We seek to live as people of the Light.

People: God sees beyond the world in which we live and guides us in the way of Jesus.

Leader: God listens to all who worship sincerely. Praise God with openness and spirit!

People: We seek to know and follow God's will, loving one another as we love ourselves.

*HYMN Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (vs 1,2) N 43

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, we trust your involvement in our lives. We ask that you come to us in a form most recognizable to each one, so that we may live fully in You. Like a shepherd, you watch over us, protect and guide us. You refresh us with living waters that overflow with your generosity. During this time of worship, may we be receptive to learn from one another. AMEN

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:1-3;11b-32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he told them this parable: Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So, he divided his property

between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and

rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.” ’

ANTHEM Reflections on a Swedish Folk Tune Bell Choir
PASTOR’S MESSAGE Favoritism Rev. Laura

MUSICAL MEDITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

*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.

*HYMN My Life Flows on in Endless Song (vs 1,2) N 476

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Deacon of the Week: Andrew Daigle

Spirit Squad: VanAmburg Family

Reader: Denise Forest



Please Remember in Prayer



Amara
Ruth Bodge
Judith Chiasson
Diane Clapp
Bob Nenni
Jean Mijal

Carolyn Monday
Barbara Morray
Anna O'Donnell
Rachel
People of Ukraine
Kim Woodruff

Brookside’s sponsor children: Eben Gulo and Praise Mupaahlwa
~ Sakubva Church, UCC – the center candle celebrates our
Ukama Partnership since 1996 ~

(Prayer requests will be printed in the bulletin for a three-week period)

Please be aware that Brookside Church may take photographs and videos of attendees at church services and events. By attending and being present, you agree that we may use your name, likeness, photographs, and video in connection with the promotion, marketing and advertising of Brookside Church and its events. Please notify admin@brooksidecc.org if you do not wish to have photographs or video taken of you at services or events.



Brookside’s special collection for the UCC One Great Hour of Sharing is occurring during the month of March – One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. Take a moment to read and watch this thoughtful video & message provided through UCC.org. Then please, take a moment to give towards this special effort by sending a check to Brookside Congregational Church, UCC or using the Donate button on our website (brooksideecc.org) – please note: OGHS special collection in your donation

<https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/UCC-OGHS-2022.mp4>

“Around the world, gifts given by this faith community to One Great Hour of Sharing weave together a tapestry of faith, hope, and love in action. We are grateful for the opportunity to change the world through our acts of kindness, large and small.

Maria von Trapp (whose story inspired *The Sound of Music*) once said, “It will be very interesting one day to follow the pattern of our life as it is spread out like a beautiful tapestry. As long as we live here, we see only the reverse side of the weaving, and very often the pattern, with its threads running wildly, doesn’t seem to make sense. Someday, however, we shall understand.”²

The tapestry we weave includes our being present with communities near or far, following various kinds of disasters, assisting communities with the resources they need to survive, or helping children with educational needs. Yet, we cannot be in all places needing our assistance ourselves or even see them with our own eyes; but through our generous gifts, we can show that love remains, in spite of all obstacles. Let us give, joyfully and generously, in that spirit.”¹

¹ [UCC.org/2022-UCC-OGHS/Offering Invitation](https://www.ucc.org/2022-UCC-OGHS/Offering%20Invitation)

² Trapp, Maria Augusta. *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* (William Morrow Paperbacks/HarperCollins, 2001), 83.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27**Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.*

1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;

Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Ps. 46:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17

*Anon. in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School,
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.
St. J. Doris Fleun, c. 1957*

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
 liv - ing, What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All