



**NEWTON
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
God is still speaking,

An Open and Affirming Congregation

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

**Virtual Worship • March 29, 2020 • 10:00am
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Digital Bulletin

This document is prepared so you can join our Sunday morning live-stream worship via our Facebook page (facebook.com/NewtonUCC) or call in via Zoom (Dial 312-626-6799; then enter Meeting ID: 938 740 213), or worship on your own at a time convenient for you (visit our Facebook page or website—uccnewton.org).

We are new to online and streaming worship at Congregational UCC and still working on smoothing out a few “hiccups” and technical difficulties. Of course, there is nothing that compares to being physically present with one another in worship, and yet this is what we need to do to “love our neighbors” during the current national emergency.

We apologize in advance for any problems that you may encounter in connecting to the service and welcome your feedback on how to improve the virtual worship experience over the coming weeks when we will not be able to worship in our sanctuary.

PREPARING FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP

As you prepare to join in online worship with us, in addition to making whatever technical preparations you need to make, consider how to prepare your personal space for worship:

- Silence your phone and eliminate distractions
 - Light a candle or some incense
- Open your Bible or browser to Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Position your body in a posture of worship and prayer

~ ~ ~

*I prophesied as I was commanded, and breath came into them;
they came alive and stood up on their feet—a vast multitude.*
Ezekiel 37:10

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE

One: As we prepare ourselves to join together in worship,
let us remind ourselves who we are
as members and friends of Congregational United Church of Christ.

All: **We are a community of God's beloved
dedicated to following the teachings of Jesus as we live our faith
by loving and serving all of God's creation
and striving for justice and peace
throughout our community, our nation, and the world.**

THE BREATH OF GOD

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: During this season of Lent, we are called to turn back to God and God's ways
and dwell with confidence in the presence of the divine.

All: **We are called to self-examination and reflection
that we might remember who we are and whose we are.**

One: On this fifth Sunday in Lent, called by the Spirit,
we gather in the valley of dry bones with Ezekiel
that we too might be filled with the life-giving breath of God.

All: **Today, called by the Spirit, we gather in the presence of God
that we too might be fed, nourished, and empowered to live lives of faith in love.**

One: Meet us in our valleys, O God,
that we might be filled with your life-giving spirit.

All: **Meet us where we are this day, O Holy One,
and fill us with your resurrecting breath raising us to life anew.
We pray in Jesus's name, Amen.**

OPENING HYMN 261

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

*There's a sweet, sweet Spir-it in this place,
and I know that it's the Spir-it of the Lord;
there are sweet ex-pres-sions on each face,
and I know they feel the pres-ence of the Lord.*

*Sweet Ho-ly Spir-it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove,
stay right here with us, fill-ing us with your love;
and for these bless-ings we lift our hearts in praise;
with-out a doubt we'll know that we have been re-vived
when we shall leave this place.*

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION

Psalm 141 from "Holden Evening Prayer" by Marty Haugen

***Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be-fore you,
the lift-ing up of my hands as an off-er-ing to you.***

***O God, I call to you, come to me now;
O hear my voice when I cry to you.***

***Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be-fore you,
the lift-ing up of my hands as an off-er-ing to you.***

***Keep watch with-in me, God; deep in my heart
may the light of your love be burn-ing bright.***

***Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be-fore you,
the lift-ing up of my hands as an off-er-ing to you.***

***All praise to the God of all – Cre-a-tor of life;
all praise be to Christ and the Spir-it of love.***

***Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be-fore you,
the lift-ing up of my hands as an off-er-ing to you.***

(silent prayer and reflection)

One: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense,
and may your presence surround and fill us,
so that in union with all creation,
we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

One: The peace of God be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN

Lead Us from Death to Life

World Peace Prayer

***Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth,
from de-spair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
let peace fill our u-ni-verse.***

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14

*** GLORIA PATRI**

Greatorex

***Glo-ry to the Cre-a-tor, the Christ, the Ho-ly Spir-it, Three-in-One;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ever shall be,
world with-out end. A-men. A-men.***

PAUSE

(What did you hear yourself saying as you were listening to the presentation of the scripture and the sermon? How is God speaking to you today?)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Today we will sing our prayers for God's people and world today using the Litany and Prayers from "Holden Evening Prayer" by Marty Haugen. You are invited to sing "Hmmm..." while Rev. Petersen sings the various prayer petitions. After each petition, we will all join together in singing "God of mercy, hold us in love." After the final petition, all are invited to sing, "Keep us, hold us, Gracious God.")

*Rev. Petersen's Prayer Petitions; **Congregation's response:***

- 1) *In peace, in peace, we pray to you: **God of mer-cy, hold us in love.***
- 2) *For peace and salvation, we pray to you: **God of mer-cy, hold us in love.***
- 3) *For peace between nations, for peace between peoples: **God of mer-cy, hold us in love.***
- 4) *For us who are gathered to worship and praise you: **God of mer-cy, hold us in love.***
- 5) *For all of your servants who live out your gospel: **God of mer-cy, hold us in love.***
- 6) *For all those who govern that justice might guide them: **God of mer-cy, hold us in love.***
- 7) *For all those who labor in service to others: **God of mer-cy, hold us in love.***
- 8) *Grant weather that nourishes all of creation: **God of mer-cy, hold us in love.***
- 9) *Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger: **God of mer-cy, hold us in love.***
- 10) *For all the beloved who rest in your mercy: **God of mer-cy, hold us in love.***
- 11) *Help us comfort us all of our days: **Keep us, hold us, Gra-cious God.***

One: Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life,
give to your people the peace that passes all understanding
and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (*Other options for "Father" include "Mother," "Parent," "Creator.")

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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(During our hiatus from in-person worship, you are encouraged to mail your pledges and offerings to the church office: Congregational United Church of Christ, 308 E 2nd St N, Newton, IA 50208.)

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

*Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow,
praise God all crea-tures here be-low.
Praise God for all that love has done,
Cre-a-tor, Christ, and Spir-it, One. A-men.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN 254

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Trentham

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a-new,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, un-til my heart is pure,
un-til with thee I will one will to do and to en-dure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol-ly thine,
un-til this earth-ly part of me glows with thy fire di-vine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev-er die,
but live with thee they per-fect life of thine e-ter-ni-ty.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reprinting and Streaming of Hymns:

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Hymn numbers are from "Chalice Hymnal."