

# East Parish United Methodist Church

Established 1834

*East Parish is a Church open to all, which nurtures and enables people to experience  
God's transforming love and serve others in Jesus' name.*

# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



**March 20, 2022**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**

*The Book of Remembrance is opened to the Glory of God,  
in loving memory of.*

**PRELUDE** “ ”

**WELCOME**

\* **OPENING HYMN** “*Stand Up and Bless the Lord*” #662

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Ministry Matters)**

L: Lord, you are our God.

**P: We will praise you with joyful lips.**

L: Lord, you are our God.

**P: Our souls thirst for you.**

L: Lord, you are our God.

**P: We behold your power and majesty.**

L: Lord, you are our God.

**P: We will bless you all of the days of our lives.**

**OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

**Gracious and eternal God, you call us into a new way of being, and give us so many second chances in life. May your love wash over us, as we turn toward you from our sinful ways. Mold us as your people in new and powerful ways that we may be true disciples of your Only Begotten, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE**

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

**SERMON**

“The Fig Tree ”

**Rev. Nancy Wichmann**

\* **HYMN**

“*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*”

#140

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

You are invited to share your prayers of thanksgiving or petition. You may also send them to Pastor Wichmann at [nan\\_wich@bellsouth.net](mailto:nan_wich@bellsouth.net); indicate whether or not they should be shared.

**PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT**

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**This is the season of turning. We are called on this journey to turn our lives to our God, to turn away from all those things which have harmed us and others; to separate ourselves from actions and attitudes that demean and destroy. It is far too easy for us to sink into the mire of self-pity and self-serving attitudes, wondering why everything isn't coming our way. We want comfort, contentment, no stress, no struggle. Yet our lives are filled with stress and discontent. We hurt, O God! We hurt in our bodies and our souls. We hurt in our relationships with others. How we must try your patience! We don't want to be like this - we want to feel the warmth of your love, the freedom of your spirit, the joy of serving you. Forgive us for our selfishness and stupidity. Heal us. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, hear the good news. You are given another chance! God has heard your cries. Turn again to God. Find comfort and strength in God's eternal love for you. Be healed. AMEN.

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L: Jesus reminds us of the need to repent, and then gives us his peace. Let us share the peace of Christ with the words "The peace of Christ be with you always."

**P: And also with you.**

## GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY " "

- \* **DOXOLOGY** No. 95  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

- \* **HYMN** *"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"* #121
- \* **BENEDICTION**  
God has called you to bear witness to hope and goodness. Know that you have been healed of all that prevents you from serving God. Go forth with God's love and blessing to bring Good News to this hurting world. AMEN.
- \* **BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *"Let There Be Peace on Earth"* #431  
*Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth, The peace that was meant to be.  
With God our Creator, children all are we;  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally,  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*

POSTLUDE " "

*\*Indicates that we rise in body or in spirit.*

## **1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. (New Revised Standard Version)

## **Luke 13:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

(New Revised Standard Version)

## Prayer List

Church of Christ and ministries  
and members of East Parish  
United Methodist Church  
All who struggle with their faith  
Family and friends of John Kelly  
Assisted Living, Nursing Home  
and Memory Care Residents  
Residents of Maris House & Link  
House  
Our members who are traveling  
Joni McPhee  
Steve Smith  
Julie Allred  
Chip & Gail (friend of Alana)  
Alan Dane (George's friend)  
Hailey Stone  
Tom (Debbie and Steve's friend)  
Sam Colby  
Jeanette Cooper Hicks  
Madolyn Lynch  
George (Debbie's cousin-in-law)  
Anita McMahon

Jean Gustavson  
Harmony Montgomery (7 yr old  
girl missing from Manchester)  
People of the Ukraine  
Children, especially orphans  
Victims of natural disasters.  
Victims of sexual abuse and  
assault  
Division in The United Methodist  
Church  
For those whose voices are so  
often ignored  
For the slain everywhere and all  
victims of violence  
Deplorable treatment of refugees  
and asylum-seekers on the  
southern border of the US  
All who have suffered with,  
because of, or died from COVID-19  
or addiction.  
For our country, desperately in  
need of unity and humanity

### **United Methodist Church Staff and Worship Leaders**

Pastor.....Pastor Nancy Wichmann (781)697-6344 (C)  
Church Administrator.....Joanne Sheehan [eastparishumc@verizon.net](mailto:eastparishumc@verizon.net)  
Leadership Committee .....Sharon Gill (978) 270-1045  
Building Monitor..... Craig Fowler  
Lay Leader.....Jan Juntunen 978- 518-7881  
Organist..... Linda Ingram  
Sexton.....Steve Choate (978)462-4578  
Coffee Hour Coordinator.....Debbie Choate [dcpertl@verizon.net](mailto:dcpertl@verizon.net) (978)462-4578  
Worship Committee.....Debbie Choate [dcpertl@verizon.net](mailto:dcpertl@verizon.net) (978)462-4578

Ministers.....The Congregation

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We do not require masks, but you may wear one at your discretion. We do ask you to maintain social distancing. Additionally, fellowship following service is suspended.**

**UKRAINE HELP** – United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is soliciting donations to help with efforts in war-torn Ukraine.

<https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450/>

**COMMUNION OFFERING** – The Communion offering for March, the offering will be baking mixes (cookies, muffins, cakes, etc.) and toothbrushes and toothpaste. Items will be collected throughout March and delivered the first week of April. Thank you for your ongoing support of Pettengill House.

**LENTEN STUDY** – Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing. We will be doing this study after worship March 6 – April 10.

**PRAYER LIST** – Each week we include a list of people who are in need of prayer. If we were to pray for two people each day, at the end of the week we will have each prayed for 14 people!

If you wish to become a member of our church family, or to be baptized, contact Pastor Wichmann at [nan\\_wich@bellsouth.net](mailto:nan_wich@bellsouth.net) or 781-697-6344.