



Congregational Church of Weston, UCC

130 Newton St., Weston, MA 02493

March 1, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent

60th Anniversary
February 29, 1960 – February 29, 2020

The Greening of the Cross, April 2019

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Meditation

Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime; therefore, we are saved by hope. Nothing true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore, we are saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore, we are saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as from our own. Therefore, we are saved by the final form of love, which is forgiveness.

Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Irony of American History*

PRELUDE *French Suite No. 5 in G Major, BWV 816 I. Allemande* J.S. Bach
Pianist: Dooseon Woo

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

INTROIT *The Glory of These Forty Days* Josquin des Prez,
trans. Maurice F. Bell
Choir directed by Zen Kuriyama

* Please stand as able.

Bold text is for congregational responses

*The **PrayGround** is open in back for any child who wants to spend time there. Sharon Kuhn will be there to lead a quiet craft. There are also soft toys, puzzles and books for quiet reading.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Liturgist: Candace Paquin

One: People of God, as you journey through life, what will you eat?

Matt. 4:1-11

All: **Our daily bread is the Word of God.**

One: People of God, when temptation abounds, how will you live?

All: **Our faith is in God's faithfulness.**

One: People of God, when having to decide, whom will you serve?

All: **Our service is to God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.**

* HYMN 495

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Liturgist: Candace Paquin

One: When self-interest dominates and the good life is sought apart from others and God, life is not the way it should be. Surely it is time to cry out for help!

All: **Loving God, you know the ways of good and evil, the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. Have mercy on us when we have disobeyed, denied and disrupted your loving intent. Cover us with your grace, feed us with the bread of life and re-create us in your image.**

-- Silent confession --

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(based on Psalm 32)

One: Count yourself blessed; you get a fresh start. Count yourself blessed; God holds nothing against you – hold nothing back from God. Count yourself blessed; you get a fresh start. Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

LESSON

Reader: Rev. Rand Peabody

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7, *NRSV*

Though we often connect this story with original sin, the word "sin" never appears. A careful reading of the text reveals another theme: humanity's God-given mission to till and keep God's garden, and our propensity to be distracted from that mission.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

LESSON

Romans 5: 12, 18-21, *The Message*

For Paul human history can be divided into two epochs, each established by one person, Adam or Jesus. Adam's disobedience set in motion consequences that continue to distort human life. Christ's obedience broke that spiraling set of consequences as Christ's act ("the free gift") is greater than Adam's trespass.

You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in – first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One person said no to God and put many in the wrong; one person said yes to God and put many in the right.

All that passing laws against sin did was produce more lawbreakers. But sin didn't, and doesn't, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call *grace*. When it's sin versus grace, grace wins hands down. All sin can do is threaten us with death, and that's the end of it. Grace, because God is putting everything together again through the Messiah, invites us into life – a life that goes on and on and on, world without end.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Lord, Grant Thou Me a Quiet Mind

Arlen Clarke

Choir directed by Zen Kuriyama

LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11, *NRSV*

In the Bible, the wilderness is not a place for renewal—it is a place for struggle. So, it is for Jesus. Drawing close to God involves wrestling with his deepest loyalties. Can he continue to be God's beloved Son in face of extreme temptation?

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' " Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

"Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Richard Edens

* HYMN 306

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

WAREHAM

A WORD FROM CCW'S FOUNDING

Susan Banghart

During the Reception following worship, you will have the opportunity to hear and share other memories.

For a people called by you and sustained by faith, courage and conviction since 1960:

We give you thanks, O God.

For a community that has gathered for 60 years to explore your Word, wash away fear, feast at your table, and offer you praise:

We give you thanks, O God.

For a fellowship where children are welcomed at the font, where new disciples are gratefully received, where couples exchange vows of commitment and where loved ones are entrusted to you in the sure and certain hope of resurrection:

We give you thanks, O God.

For your church where sins are confessed and forgiven, burdens made easier, troubled hearts granted peace, and lives transformed:

We give you thanks, O God.

For disciples growing in the practices of faith and witnessing to the hope that is within them:

We give you thanks, O God.

For a colony of heaven striving to follow Jesus, to care for the neighbor, to welcome the stranger, and to love your Creation:

We give you thanks, O God.

For sixty years of life in Christian community that unites us in love and service until your reign comes:

We give you thanks, O God.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER

Invitation

Offertory

Dance of Blessed Spirits from Orfeo ed Euridice

Gluck

Pianist: Dooseon Woo

* Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Dedication of the Offering

**Holy God, transform our offerings into the bread of life for those who hunger.
May our gifts and our lives bear witness to the power of your love. Amen.**

* SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Invitation

This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

**Men and women, youth and children,
come from the east and the west,
the north and the south,
and gather about Christ's table.**

This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ
and to share in the community of God's people.

Everyone is welcome at Christ's table.

(Please be seated.)

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

You are invited to come forward and receive communion by intinction. While we share in the bread and the cup, we will sing hymn #330, "Let Us Break Bread Together."

- 1 ... break bread together on our knees**
- 2 ... drink wine together on our knees**
- 3 ... praise God together on our knees**

As needed, you are invited to sing the refrain of the Taizé refrain, "Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup."



Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ.

Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

* HYMN (page 7)

We Are a New Creation

LANCASHIRE

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Philip Joe Mayher

POSTLUDE

Scherzo on Tenth Avenue

Kraehenbuehl

Pianist: Dooseon Woo



Today

The **Flowers** this morning are given in memory of Marjorie and Victor Harnish. Our **greeters** and **ushers** this morning are **Paul & Jessica Schendel**. Our **hosts** following worship are the **Deacons**. *Please join us.* **Candace Paquin** is the **Deacon** and **Liturgist**. The **Reader** this morning is **Rand Peabody**.

Faith Discovery Information:

Children aged 0-6 are welcome in the PrayGround at the back of the sanctuary at any time. Sharon Kuhn will be there to oversee activities which include drawing, coloring, puzzles, books, and soft toys. Parents are also welcome!

Children in 2nd grade and above will be invited to leave with Cathy during the sermon for a story presentation and wondering in the Faith Discovery nook in the library. They can also stay with their parents in worship or take in the service on a soft pillow in the Prayground.

VACATION TIME

Richard and Jill Edens will be out of the office most of the week. They will be available by phone and email.



DELIVER US: 2020 Lenten Devotional **UCC StillSpeaking Writers' Group**

Climate crises caused by global warming. Strident polarization in communities. Gaping income disparities between the richest of us and the rest of us. The rampage of racism and militarism.

The existential and everyday threats we face are daunting. With faithful people across the ages, we cry out to God for deliverance ... not only pleading for God to act but seeking the courage to let God act through us. We can take such a risk ... or we can play it safe. The Lenten season is a time for each of us to explore the ways in which we promote (or prevent) the deliverance we so desperately seek.

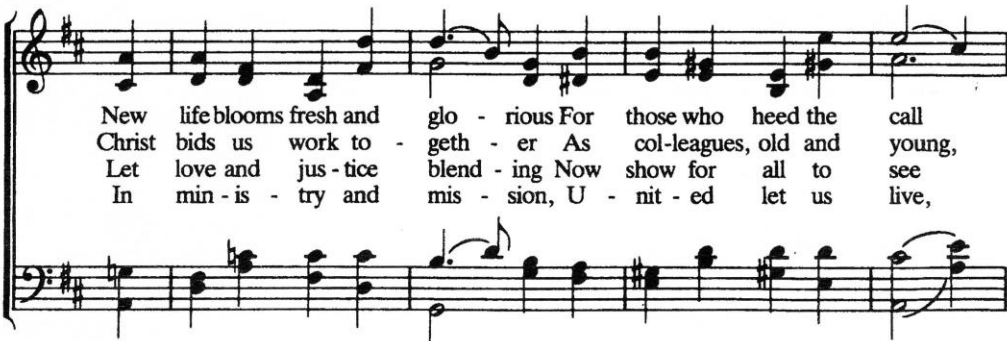
We Are a New Creation



1 We are a new cre - a - tion Of Christ, the liv - ing Word.
2 We are a new cre - a - tion Of God for this new day.
3 We are a new cre - a - tion For serv - ice here on earth.
4 We are a new cre - a - tion By God's own gra - cious hand,



Our songs of ju - bi - la - tion Shall ev - ery - where be heard.
As part - ners let us fol - low The life, the truth, the way.
We live our faith in ac - tion To tell our Sav - ior's worth.
Old bur - dens cast be - hind us, A dar - ing fu - ture planned.



New life blooms fresh and glo - rious For those who heed the call
Christ bids us work to - geth - er As col - leagues, old and young,
Let love and jus - tice blend - ing Now show for all to see
In min - is - try and mis - sion, U - nit - ed let us live,



Of Christ, who reigns vic - to - rious O'er sin and death and all.
As wom - en, men, and na - tions, God's folk of ev - ery tongue.
God's grace is nev - er - end - ing. It reach - es you and me.
In Christ a shin - ing vi - sion To God's wide world to give.

LENTEN STUDY:

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week

Jesus' final days were full of **risk**. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward.

Jesus **risked** his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He **risked** his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers **risked** everything when they left behind their homes or anointed him with costly perfume. We take **risks** as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

Gather over lunch (12- 1) at the Congregational Church of Weston for four Wednesdays in Lent – **March 11, 18, 25 and April 1** – with the Revs. Jill and Richard Edens. Bring a sack lunch and we will provide coffee or hot water for tea. For more information, contact the CCW Office, office@westonucc.org or 781-899-5417. Books will be available from the CCW Office for \$10.



ENTERING
THE PASSION
of JESUS



COLLEGE BEHIND BARS, March 15, 11:30am, at WVC

A condensed version of the documentary, “*College Behind Bars*,” which focuses on the experience of men and women earning college degrees while incarcerated through the Bard Prison Initiative, will be shown on March 15, 11:30, at WVC. Arthur Benbury of the Partakers Ministry, a graduate who earned his degree while incarcerated, and David and Christina Oliver, WVC members will speak and answer questions afterwards.

MARCH 10, 7:30 FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND (225 BOSTON POST ROAD) CARBON TAXES AS A CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION

Talk by Dr. Gilbert Metcalf, Professor of Economics, Tufts University. Dr. Metcalf is an expert on carbon taxes and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Energy at the Department of Treasury.

March 24, 7:30 FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND (225 BOSTON POST ROAD) FORUM on MASS. CLIMATE LEGISLATION

In this forum, Massachusetts state senators and representatives from local communities will discuss climate solutions bills that are likely to come to a vote in this legislative session. Our legislators will describe how you can get involved in turning pending bills into laws. Participants will include

Senator Mike Barrett (3rd Middlesex district, including Lincoln and Weston);

Senator James Eldridge (Middlesex and Worcester districts);

Rep. Carmine Gentile (13th Middlesex district, including Wayland);

Rep. Alice Peisch (14th Norfolk district, including Wayland, Wellesley and Weston),

Senator Becca Rausch (Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex districts including Wayland and Wellesley) and

Rep. Tom Stanley (9th Middlesex district, including Lincoln and Waltham).

Mass Audubon's Climate Change Program Director, Alexandra Vecchio, will moderate the discussion.

BRAVE CHANGE: Collaboration Retreat II, March 28

A second Saturday morning Collaboration Retreat between CCW and WVC will be on Saturday morning, March 28 at the **Congregational Church of Weston UCC**.

April 25, 1:30pm

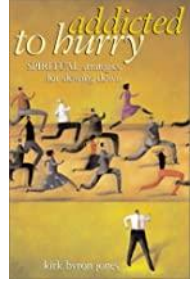
ADDICTED TO HURRY

with author and professor Dr. Kirk Jones

The Agape Spiritual Community (UCC new church start in Waltham) has invited us to join them for a portion of a retreat in April at the **Congregational Church of Weston UCC**.

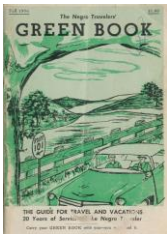
Rev. Dr. Kirk Jones (long-time adjunct faculty at Andover Newton Theological School) will reflect on his book *Addicted to Hurry*. Dr. Jones will help us reflect on and practice how we can go at a Sabbath pace (as we do in retreats) in our individual lives, and in our services/communal life.

The retreat will be at the **Congregational Church of Weston UCC** on Saturday, April 25th. Kirk will present for 90 minutes in the early afternoon on a Saturday around 1:30pm. *"We would love to welcome you and several people from your congregation to join us for Kirk's presentation."* If interested in attending, please speak with Rev. Richard Edens.



CITY MISSION:

Social Justice & Racial Reconciliation 2020



Traveling with the Green Book in Boston,

Saturday, March 21, 2020

First published in 1936, *The Green Book* provided a guide to hotels and restaurants that would accept the business of African Americans. City Mission will lead a tour of some of the listed Boston locations followed by a viewing of the documentary, *The Green Book: Guide to Freedom*, and a facilitated conversation over lunch at the restaurant, Slade's. Cost \$40.

Pilgrimage to Seek Truth & Justice,

Thursday, April 16, 2020- Sunday, April 19, 2020

Pilgrimage to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, AL.

Slavery in Massachusetts,

Saturday, May 2, 2020

City Mission will lead a trip to visit the Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford, MA and host a facilitated conversation at a local restaurant. Cost \$40.



Jill and Richard are planning to attend the above events – including the pilgrimage to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. If you are interested in any of them or all of them, let's talk.

CCW Calendar

Mar 06 – *Josephine Bolling McCall speaking at Old South*

Mar 08 Lent 2 (**Davlight Saving Time begins**) – Bob Feeny to preach

March 11, 18, 25 & April 1 Lenten Book Study over lunch at CCW:

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week

Mar 15 Lent 3

Mar 21 – *Traveling with The Green Book in Boston*

Mar 22 Lent 4

Mar. 27, Fri, Women of the Passion in the Sanctuary

Mar 28, Sat., **BRAVE CHANGE II** – CCW-WVC Collaboration Planning Retreat

Mar 29 Lent 5 - Bob Feeny to preach

Apr 03 Cambridge Early Music Concert

Apr 05 Palm Sunday

Thu., Apr 09 Maundy Thursday at CCW

Fri., Apr 10 Good Friday Service

Apr 12 EASTER Sunday

Thu., Apr 16 – Sun., Apr 19 City Mission Trip to Nat. Memorial for Peace & Justice, Montgomery, AL

Sat., Apr 18 – Sat., Apr 25 Youth Service Trip to New Mexico

Apr 19 Easter 2 – Joint Earth Day Service with First Parish on the Weston Green

Apr 25 Agape Community Retreat – 1:30pm *“Addicted to Hurry”* with Dr. Kirk Jones

Apr 26 Easter 3

May 2 – *Slavery in Massachusetts, Royall House & Slave Quarters, Medford*

May 3 Easter 4

7pm Interfaith Faith and Science Exchange (InterFASE) Townes Lecture

Jennifer J. Wiseman is the Director of the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program.

She is also an astrophysicist at NASA, where she is the Senior Project Scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope. She studies the formation of stars and planetary systems using radio, optical, and infrared telescopes.

May 10 Easter 5 - Bob Feeny to preach

May 17 Easter 6

May 24 Easter 7 (Memorial Day Weekend)

May 29 Cambridge Early Music Concert

May 31 PENTECOST Sunday

June 7 TRINITY Sunday

June 14 Pentecost 2 - Bob Feeny to preach

June 21 Pentecost 3

June 28 Pentecost 4

An Evening with Josephine Bolling McCall



Friday, March 6, 2020, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Old South Church in Boston (645 Boylston Street)

Ms. McCall will share the moving story of her father's lynching which took place just before Christmas in 1947 and reveal the scheme to cover up the murder. She will talk about her journey of discovery which challenges our nation to examine and consider the lasting impact of slavery, America's original sin. Her presentation will be followed by conversation and a book signing.

This event is free and open to the public but please RSVP at [TINYURL.COM/EVENINGWITHJBM](https://tinyurl.com/EveningWithJBM)

EVENT CO-SPONSORS

Congregational Church of Weston UCC
First Church in Cambridge
First Parish in Concord
Myrtle Baptist Church
Hancock United Church of Christ
Theodore Parker Unitarian Church
Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC
The Union Church in Waban
United Parish in Brookline



CITY MISSION
185 Columbia Road
Dorchester, MA
617-742-6830

<https://citymissionboston.org/>

Founded in 1816 by members and clergy leaders of Old South Church UCC and Park Street Church to serve the educational, economic, and social needs of impoverished Boston area residents, **City Mission** is the oldest multi-service agency in New England and the second oldest in the United States.

Welcome to the worship of God at *The Congregational Church of Weston, UCC*. We are an Open and Affirming, Level 1 Green Congregation, welcoming all. If you are visiting, welcome and please join us for fellowship and refreshments after worship. Please sign our guest register or complete the **Welcome Card** at the back of the sanctuary.

An Invitation

We are a congregation that affirms each person as a child of God. We are open to all: all races, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, ages or economic circumstances. We welcome all those who wish to explore, develop and deepen their faith in response to God's call. All are invited to join fully in our church's common life, mission and worship through participation, leadership and service.

Concerns for Prayer? We invite you to write your request for prayer of petition or gratitude – anonymously if you wish – on a **Prayer Card**. Cards are available in the rear of the sanctuary. Place the completed card in the offering plate or in the Meditation Room. If you place it in the Meditation Room, please take a moment to reflect. Your prayers will be added to those already there.



Congregational Church of Weston, UCC

The Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, jedens@westonucc.org
Designated Term Minister,

The Rev. Richard Edens, redens@westonucc.org
Designated Term Minister,

Catherine Liddell Dertouzos,
Director of Christian Education

Sharon Kuhn, *First Steps Caregiver*

Zen Kuriyama, *Choir Director*

Dooseon Woo, *Pianist*

*Email for Church Office: office@westonucc.org
(781) 899-5417 www.westonucc.org*

Our Statement of Purpose

As a progressive, multi-generational Christian community, inspired and sustained by meaningful worship and practice, we are called by God to do our best to serve our neighbors and improve the world for all of God's children by

- *Providing an environment of hope and purpose, grounded in our Christian belief in God's grace and mercy.*
- *Supporting and nurturing our members of all ages.*
- *Equipping ourselves and neighbors with skills for constructive discourse.*
- *Engaging our community in authentic and respectful conversations about challenging situations in our families, communities, nation and world; and encouraging constructive responses to these exchanges.*
- *Assuring that future generations can flourish, by being good stewards of God's creation.*

Affirmed by the congregation, February 10, 2019



**“Like”
Congregational Church of
Weston on Facebook.**