



Kent United Church of Christ

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, and W.I.S.E. CONGREGATION

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 26, 2023

PRELUDE

Andante

Johannes Brahms, arr. Lani Smith

GREETING

Kathy Robinson, deacon

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE – GREETINGS FROM PASTOR AMY

Sue Otterson, moderator

*OPENING HYMN (Insert)

Gather Us In

Marty Haugen

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy Robinson, liturgist

From the safety and comfort of home, God called Abram to go from all he knew to embrace a future yet to be revealed.

"Go from," God says, and our hesitant hearts place one foot in front of the other to trust God with the unknown.

By night, Nicodemus came seeking greater insight into the teachings of God for the journey set before him. Jesus called him out of the shadows and towards a life born anew.

"Go towards" God says, and a new life awaits us. We reach towards a God who has not come to condemn the world but to offer a salve that can heal all wounds.

We fear the unknown and that which we lack in understanding. "How can this be?" we proclaim with Nicodemus. And yet, God's call is one that urges us to go with our whole self into that unknowing, trusting that God will provide a way.

Love calls us forth into lives of transformation, born anew into new paths of faith.

Though we do not know where we are going, God has promised to never leave us alone. Let us worship the One who will show us the way.

*INVOCATION

Kathy Robinson

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ Jesus our Lord be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Emily Roeger

"Jesus Loves the Little Children" is sung to bless the children.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Kathy Robinson

John 3:11-17

Here ends the reading from God's word.

Thanks be to God, who is still speaking.

MESSAGE

Super Easter

Frank Hairston,

social justice committee co-chair

ANTHEM

Still, Small Voice
Chancel Choir

Karen Marrolli

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kin-dom,
and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT #271 *Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow*

FALCONE

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Kathy Robinson

*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

Kathy Robinson

*CLOSING HYMN (Insert)

Give Thanks for Life

SINE NOMINE

*BENEDICTION

Frank Hairston

Because of the penitential nature of the season of Lent, there will be no postlude.



*Our service has ended. Now our service begins.
You are the Body of Christ, and the whole world awaits you.*

The chancel flowers are an offering today from Nancy and Don Bubenzer, in honor of Sophia Grace and all the children of the church.

Gather us in

Marty Haugen



1. Here in this place---
2. We are the young, our
3. Here we will take the
4. Not in the dark of

new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
lives are a mys - tery, we are the old who
wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some heav-en,



van - ished a - way, ---- see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
yearn for your face - - - we have been sung through - out all of his - tory,
bread of new birth - - here you shall cal your sons and your daugh-ters
light years a - way, but here in this place the new light is shin - ing.



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the Ki - ing - dom, now is the day.



Gath - er us in the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame: call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peop - les to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise in the sound of our name.
give us the cou-rage to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire - - of love in our flesh and our bone.

Give Thanks for Life

Unison G Cmaj7 D7 Em G/B C G/B Am D G

1 Give thanks for life, the meas-ure of our days,
 2 Give thanks for those who made their life a light
 3 And for our own, our liv-ing and our dead,
 4 Give thanks for hope, that, like the wheat, the grain

D F# A7/E D G/B D/F# Gmaj7 A7 D D/C

mor-tal, we pass through beau-ty that de-cays, yet
 caught from the Christ-flame, burst-ing through the night, who
 thanks for the love by which our life is fed, a
 ly-ing in dark-ness does its life re-tain, in

G/B C G/B Am7 G G/F# C/E D/F# G G/B D

sing to the God our love, our love, our praise:
 touched not truth, who burned for what is right:
 love res-ur-changed by time or death or dread:
 - ur rec-tion to grow green a - gain:

G/B G7 C Am7 G/B Em C G/B Am7 G/B Dsus D7 G

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!