

## OUR SPECIAL EASTERTIDE SEASON OF PRAYER FOR EAST CHURCH CONTINUES

During the days following Jesus' crucifixion, his followers were confounded, saddened, and wondering about the future, and what to do about all they were experiencing. It took them time and reflection and prayer to discern a new path and figure out how to witness and testify to all they knew, and what they believed.



In these 50 days of Eastertide 2023, before we celebrate Pentecost, a season when Christ's first followers began to take on new work with growing belief and impact, each of us and all of us are invited and encouraged to enter into a time of focused prayer for discernment, vision, and actions with and for East Church.

Thank God we have a limitless variety of ways to pray, reflect, and engage in discerning the Spirit's vision for our congregation and our FFP (Faithful Future Planning initiative). A number of possible prayer practices include:

- 1) Reading the Prayers of St. Francis daily
- 2) Praying aloud the Lord's Prayer, slowly focusing on each petition, daily
- 3) Meditation Prayer: "Give us vision for our church; help me to see what you, God, and you Jesus, and you, Spirit, are asking us to envision."
- 4) Meditation Time in the physical church building:  
Taking time to look about the building and consider what can be done within it or with it to meet recognized needs of youth, disenfranchised minorities and/or groups, and folk who are stressed by life's demands and vicissitudes.
- 5) Listen to or read Taizé prayers, daily
- 6) Daily repeat one or more Mantras:  
eg: give me courage to share love to the unloved and lonely
- 7) Practice Quaker Meeting silence, individually awaiting the inner light
- 8) Read a range of Psalms, Proverbs, and/or Ecclesiastes and pause to reflect
- 9) Read portions of The Acts of the Apostles, The Book of Acts, and pause to reflect
- 10) Listen to a more recent Simon Sinek interview with Carey Nieuwhoff from 2022 on WHY THE CHURCH IS LOSING GROUND <https://youtu.be/Vf54ilaNyMU> It's quite long but you can start at 45:05 and listen for ten minutes, to the end, or you can listen to the whole thing as an act of prayer.

We urge and encourage, invite and call, each of us to take time each of these 50 days between Easter and Pentecost, or as often as we can manage, to center our thoughts and prayers and seek the Holy Spirit's call for our church in these days. Together, with one another, and with the Holy Spirit, we will discern God's holy way before us.

Peace,

Donna & Darwin & Pastor Shelly, on behalf of our FFP



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW for these NOURISH DATES

We gather **EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY EVENING** at 6:00pm for dinner, followed by Wacky Wednesdays for children, and great conversation and learning opportunities for adults.

DATE	LOCATION
May 10	First Congregational
May 24	East Church

Remember to **RSVP** via this [link](#) to help us get an accurate count.

### Do You LOVE to Cook?

May 24 will be the last opportunity to volunteer to host a meal for Nourish. We are asking everyone to see who might be interested, since several people had originally shared their excitement about preparing a meal for our Wednesday evening gatherings. If YOU are one of the people who had considered hosting, this is your final chance for this spring.

If no one is able to host (plan, cook, and serve) the meal on May 24, we will need to coordinate shared responsibility (including a planner, a kitchen coordinator on May 24, and a number of people to bring food, in addition to the need for volunteers for set-up and clean-up).

Thanks to this year's fabulous cooks and coordinators!

9/28/22	Dwight & Janice
10/12/22	Janice & Dwight
10/26/22	Dwight & Janice
11/9/22	Ian & family, Andrew
2/1/2023	Janice & Dwight
3/1/2023	Chris and Jennie & family
3/29/2023	Beth (pizza) et al.
4/26/2023	Beth et al.
5/24/2023	COULD THIS BE YOU?

Special thanks also to Helen, who has often volunteered to be the kitchen coordinator in support of the cooks, and to Holley and ALL those helping hands too numerous to mention (but oh so important)! Every one of you is noticed and appreciated.

PLEASE let Pastor Shelly know as soon as possible if you want to do the meal (plan, cook, and serve) on May 24!

### OUR VISION

Drawn together the mystery of God and led by Christ, we will grow in the Spirit by engaging faith, embracing change, and seeking justice for all.

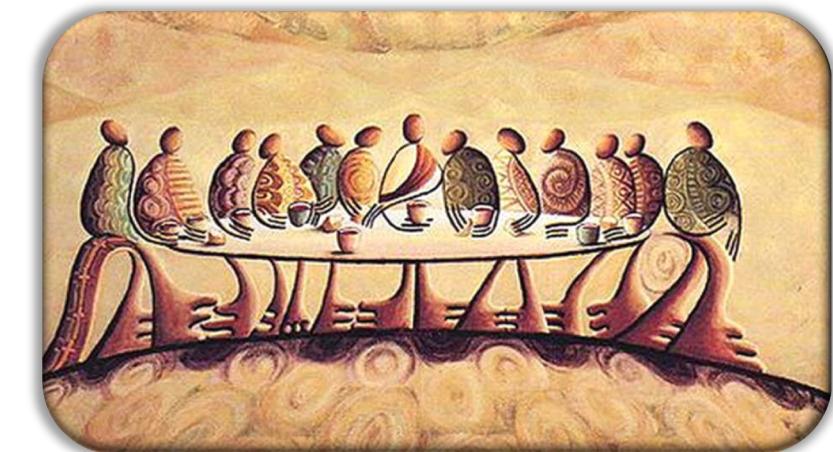
### OUR MISSION

Building and serving community in Christ's name.



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER HOLY COMMUNION

**May 7, 2023**



East Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
610 Adams Street  
Milton, Massachusetts 02186  
[www.eastchurch.org](http://www.eastchurch.org)

Rev. Shelly Davis, Pastor  
Lynn Salmonsen, Organist and Choir Director  
Marilyn Whipple, Guest Pianist

The (\*) is an invitation to rise in body or spirit as you are able.  
For Prayers and Responses in **BOLD** we lift our voices in unison.

## THOUGHT FOR REFLECTION

"Our only desire and our one choice should be this:  
I want and I choose what better leads to God's deepening life in me."  
—St. Ignatius Loyola

## WE GATHER

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As if this were the only time,  
and this the only place,  
and we the only people,  
Jesus the Christ will meet us.

ALL: **As if this were the only time,  
and this the only place,  
and we the only people,  
let us worship God.**

### \*HYMN [Come to the Table of Grace](#)

SPP 112

### \*A SIGN OF UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

Words and gestures of peace are shared in the sanctuary of our building  
and from the sanctuaries of our homes in the Zoom chat.

### OPENING PRAYER

## WE LISTEN FOR THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD

### SCRIPTURE [Luke 24:13-35](#)

NRSV p. 90 (NT)

## WE FEAST

### AN INVITATION

Celebrant: This is the table,  
not of the church, but of our Lord.  
It is to be made ready  
for those who want to encounter Jesus,  
for those who love Jesus,  
and those who want to love Jesus more.

ALL: **So we come,  
some who have much faith**

and some who have little,  
some who have been here often,  
some who have come for the first time,  
and some who have not been for a long time,  
some who have tried to follow  
and some who have tired of following.

Celebrant: Come,  
not because I invite you.  
Come,  
because Jesus invites us all  
to remember ...

### A STORY

Celebrant: ... on the night before Jesus was ...

So now, following Jesus' example and invitation,  
we take this bread and this cup,  
the ordinary things of this world,  
that Christ blesses through self-giving love.  
And as Jesus said a prayer before sharing,  
we now join our voices and spirits as we pray:

### A PRAYER (the prayer Jesus taught the first disciples)

**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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

We have come to know God and the kingdom of God by many different names and images.  
Please use the ones that speak from your heart today. (e.g. Father, Mother, Creator,  
God...Kingdom, New Earth, New Realm, Kin-dom...)

### A MEAL

### A PRAYER

\*HYMN [Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ](#) Black 347

### \*A BLESSING

One: From where we are  
to where you need us,  
**JESUS, NOW LEAD ON.**

One: From the security of what we know  
to the adventure of what you will reveal,  
**JESUS, NOW LEAD ON.**

One: To refashion the fabric of this world  
until it resembles the shape of your table and your love,  
**JESUS, NOW LEAD ON.**

One: To inspire our imaginations and our hearts  
with one another and your Holy Spirit,  
**JESUS, NOW LEAD ON.**

### \*POSTLUDE

## WORSHIP NOTES

Today's worship liturgy is abridged and adapted from Liturgy for Holy Communion B and Morning Liturgy B in A Wee Worship Book, Fourth incarnation by the Wild Goose Worship Group © 1999 Wild Goose Resource Group, Published and distributed in North America by GIA Publications, Chicago, IL. [The Wild Goose is a Celtic symbol of the Holy Spirit.]

## Announcements and Invitations

### FFP SCENARIO SESSIONS

**TODAY** we will begin at 10:00am with a brief service of Holy Communion and at 10:30am move into in-person and zoom break out rooms for facilitated Scenario Sessions. Every voice and heart is wanted and needed in these sessions—and you are invited to attend as many of these as you wish—as we continue to discern where God is leading us as a congregation.

- **SUNDAY, MAY 7 @ 10:30AM (IN-PERSON and on ZOOM)**
- **TUESDAY, MAY 9 @ 10AM ZOOM**
- **WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 @ 7PM ZOOM**



## Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

to benefit



**The Milton Coalition**

Addressing Substance Use Promoting Mental Health

Sunday, May 14th

11am - noon

East Congregational Church

Fellowship Hall

610 Adams St., Milton

Suggested donation: \$15 per person/ \$30 per family

Sponsored by:



Club of Milton, Massachusetts

**East Congregational Church**

