



UNITED CHURCH ON THE GREEN

In the Heart of New Haven, open to all Seekers

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the

United Church of Christ

In a world where Christianity is too often associated with intolerance, exclusion, and hate, the mission of United Church on the Green is to proclaim Christ through faith, hope, and love. We are a community of many races, ethnic backgrounds, religious experiences, ages, sexual orientations, and gender identities. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you will have a home here at United Church on the Green.

February 15, 2026

10:00AM

Transfiguration A

We Gather as Church

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler

Florence B. Price

I'm Troubled in My Mind

(1887-1953)

I Know the Lord Has Laid His Hands on Me

From Ten Spirituals for Piano Solo

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we come today to remember, to worship and to celebrate

All: We ask that your spirit of justice and mercy would be in this place.

One: As we call the memory of those who came as voices in the wilderness proclaiming hope and jubilee in a dark time of oppression.

All: We ask that your spirit of courage and hope would be in this place.

One: Recalling the clarion call that we be bearers of the hope of a new world.

All: We ask that your spirit which calls us to the struggle of good against the powers of evil in our world.

One: Answering your call to all people of goodwill to seek a better world.

Amen.

***HYMN #364** *This Little Light of Mine* African American Spiritual

1. This lit-tle light of mine, (of mine) I'm gon-na let it shine; (Oh ___)

(of mine) (Oh ___)

This lit-tle light of mine, (of mine) I'm gon-na let it shine; (Oh___)

This lit -tle light of mine, (of mine) I'm gon-na let it shine;

(of mine)

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (oh, let it shine.)

st. 1-4

2. This great joy I have, I'm gon-na let it shine . . .
3. Ev-'ry-where I go I'm gon-na let it shine . . .
4. All- through the night I'm gon-na let it shine . . .
5. repeat st. 1

GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

Pastor Ray

We give thanks to you, Oh God, for you are good; for your steadfast love endures forever. You have redeemed us from trouble and gathered us in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. When we cry to you in trouble, you bring us out of our distress.

We thank you God for your steadfast love, for your wonderful works to humankind. We lift up your name here in the congregation of the people and praise you in the assembly of the elders. We worship you here, today, together. Amen.

CHILDREN'S GATHERING

All children are invited to come to the front for a brief time of greeting and prayer. Afterward, children are invited to go to the children's room, or children may stay with their parents.

Children's Sermon and Sing-Along

if you promise to be welcoming
then you are welcome here!
if you keep an open heart
an open mind and open ears!
if you know that folks are different
and it's nothing to fear
then I promise you will always be
welcome here!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Abram Guerra

Gracious God, you tell us to love one another—to love others the way we so naturally love ourselves. Yet each of us must admit that we have failed to do so. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors even if they don't look like us, even if they don't think like us, even if they don't love like us, even if they don't pray like us, even if they don't speak

like us, even if they don't vote like us. But we have failed to love one another with no exceptions.

Brief period of silence

Forgive us Holy One, and make us again in your image of Love. Blot out our sins, renew our minds, rekindle our hearts, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit into the Love that is your will. Amen.

RESPONSE

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place

MEDEMA



1. There's a spir - it of love in this place, there's a
(2. There's the) pres - ence of peace in this room, there's the



spir - it of love in this place. You can't
pres - ence of peace in this room. In God's



see it, but it's there just as pre-cious as the air. There's a
ten-der-ness is found peace that pass - es hu-man bounds. There's the



spir - it of love in this place. O al - le -
pres - ence of peace in this room.



lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! We bless your ho - ly



name. O al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! There's a



spir - it of love in this place. 2. There's the place.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Siblings in Christ, God's Spirit did not leave us after that first Pentecost. The Spirit is still with us, empowering us to know mercy and grace, forgiveness and service. In this Spirit, and through Christ, we proclaim the Good News:

All: We are forgiven Alleluia! Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 17:1-9

Jim Edwards

¹Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

HYMN AAHH#143His Eye Is on the Sparrow*

SPARROW



1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, Why should the shad-ows
2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," His ten-der word I
3. When ev-er I am tempt-ed, When ev-er clouds a-



come, Why should my heart be lone-ly, And
hear, And rest-ing on His good-ness, I
rise, When songs give place to sigh-ing When



long for heav'n and home; When Je-sus is my
lose my doubts and fears; Though by the path He
hope with-in me dies, I draw the clos-er



por-tion? My con-stant Friend is He:
lead-eth, But one step I may see; His
to Him, From care He sets me free;

eye is on the spar - row, And I know He watch - es

me; His eye is on the spar - row, and I

know He watch - es me. I sing be-cause I'm

hap - py, I sing be-cause I'm free; For His

eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es me.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr

ANTHEM

Shelter in the Storm

arr. Joel Raney

There's a shelter in the storm,
There's a light in the darkest night.
There's a rock that will stand through the ages.
There's a shelter in the storm.

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you... **And also with you...** Let us pray...

We join our voices to pray, rejoice and celebrate the good things of our life together and those who are celebrating their birthdays including Dee White, John Schneider + Sumit Sharma.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we speak words of remembrance and gratitude

We pray that we might keep faith with those who struggled for all to see the full humanity of Your beloved children.

Of every hue. Of every race. Of every culture and tongue.

Immigrants. Refugees. Our Queer and trans siblings.

We pray for those who have lost their lives bearing witness to the humanity, dignity, and value of our siblings and kin.

We pray for the unhoused in our own city that they might find shelter and welcome.

We lift special prayers for those suffering famine in our land and across the world.

We pray for our world, suffering the ravages of Climate Change.

Standing expectantly before an uncertain future, we pray for our children, their teachers, school staffs and administrators that they may together learn to dream of a different world.

We pray for those challenged by physical and mental illness and for we who love them.

We pray that wisdom and courage might lead those with plenty, to help make a better world for all.

We pray for our society that has so badly lost its way and that the current reign of evil will be broken.

We pray that as Your Church we will be a place of refuge that ever lives in the power of Hope.

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

Let us join in singing with the words you taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Mark Miller

mp

Our God, in hea-ven, ho-ly is your name, your

reign come, your will done, on earth as in hea-ven.

slower

Give us to-day our dai-ly bread, and help us for-give, as we have been for-giv-en.

mf

In the time of tri-al lead us in-to light, for yours is the kin-dom, and the

f *mp*

po-wer, and the glo-ry, for-e-ver. Our God, in

hea-ven, ho-ly is your name, ho-ly is your name.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We invite you to greet one another with signs of peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

arr. David Pote and Allen Pote

I'm gonna live so God can use me,
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.
I'm gonna work so God can use me,
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.
I'm gonna pray so God can use me,
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.
I'm gonna sing so God can use me,
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

***DOXOLOGY**

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God, thank you, thank you, thank you – for your grace, for this community of faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless these offerings today that they might be used to further your reign of righteousness here and now. Work through each of us and through the ministries of this congregation that we might glorify you in all we do. Amen.

We Are Sent Out

2. Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round

African-American Spiritual; arr. J. David Moore
Minneapolis, MN | 2017

With resolve (♩ = 88)

Leader

1. Ain't gon-na let no-bod-y turn me 'round, turn me 'round,

SA

Turn me 'round, turn me 'round,

B

turn me 'round. Ain't gon-na let no-bod-y turn me 'round, I'm gon-na keep on a-walk-in',

turn me 'round. Turn me 'round, keep on a-walk-in',

keep on, keep on a-

keep on a-talk-in', march-ing up to free-dom land. 2. Ain't gon-na

keep on a-talk-in', march-ing up to free-dom land.

walk-in', keep on a-march-ing up to free-dom land.

On repeat Am

Last time Am

Lyric Suggestions: 2. Ain't gonna let segregation (turn me 'round...)
(or make up your own) 3. Ain't gonna let racism (turn me 'round...)
4. Ain't gonna let no hatred (turn me 'round...)
5. Ain't gonna let nobody (turn me 'round...)

Always include arranger's name when posting recordings. Link to this PDF: <http://songs.justicechoir.org/Ain'tGonna>

creative commons



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JUSTICECHOIR.ORG

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,

so that we may seek truth boldly and love deep within our hearts.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,

so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation, and war,

so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world,

so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen, Ameen, and Ashe!

POSTLUDE

Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho

F. B. Price

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!

Please join us at Coffee Hour after Worship

<https://unitednewhaven.org/this-weeks-worship>

Scan the QR Code to Sign Up for our Weekly Newsletter



Today's Music



Florence Beatrice Price was an American classical composer, pianist, organist and music teacher. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Price was educated at the New England Conservatory of Music, and was active in Chicago from 1927 until her death in 1953. She won first prize in the Wanamaker Competition with her Symphony in E minor and as a result, became the first female composer of African descent to have a symphonic work performed by a major national symphony orchestra.

Price composed over 300 works. In addition to her orchestral music, she composed chamber works, art songs, piano and organ music, and she arranged instrumental and vocal versions of Spirituals. Price's musical style is often conservative, reflecting the romantic, nationalist style of the 1920s—1940s. Much of her instrumental music also reflects the influence of her cultural heritage, incorporating Spirituals, Spiritual-like themes, and characteristic dance music within classical forms.

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

Director of Music

Caesar Storlazzi

UCG Choir: Cher Balkcom, Judith Carlson, Delaney Fox, Grecia Hernandez Hontz, Thomas Hernandez Hontz, Tess Klibanoff, Christopher Leimgruber, Julia Blue Raspe, Daniel Rausch, Connor Reese, and Mary Scanlon

Digital Deacons

Worship & Music Ministry Team

Coffee Hour Coordinator

Dale Richards

Head Sexton

William Henton

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

Feb 15th: 10:00AM Sunday Worship - Meeting House and Online

Feb 17th: 12Noon Staff Meeting – Online

Feb 18th: ASH WEDNESDAY

Feb 19th: 6:00PM Bible Study – Online

For Our Full Calendar, go to: www.calendarwiz.com/unitednewhaven

CHURCH NOTES

Musical Permissions

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MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROTOCOL

If we close during inclement weather, and we have online church services, the Pastor will notify members and friends, via the eBlast, TextInChurch and our Social Media Platforms.

At United Church on the Green, we seek to Do Justice, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly with God, following the footsteps of Jesus. We are also a Progressive Protestant Christian Church, a member of the Nationwide United Church of Christ (UCC).

We have a long history.

- Established 1742. Meetinghouse was built in 1815.
- The Amistad Incident? Abolition of slavery? The 1970 Black Panther trials? Divestment in South Africa? United was there.

We believe God is still speaking to the world today... and we're trying to listen.

- Not a "The Bible says it. I believe it. That settles it." kind of church. Questions encouraged. (Actually, they're necessary.)
- "Open and Affirming" of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people since 1989.

We are working with God to build a better future.

- Not interested in "saving souls" or "converting the heathen." God's love is for all.
- Trying to "connect the dots" to grow peace, justice, and compassion in the world.

Staff Contacts

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr., *senior pastor*

Caesar Storlazzi, *director of music*

Maxim Schmidt, *digital media administrator*

Nicole René Atchison, *church administrator*

Nancy Lupi, *financial secretary*

Jack Russell, *director of operations*

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Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham, *minister emerita*

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott, *minister emerita*

United Church on the Green, UCC

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Parish House office, *corner of Temple & Wall*

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