

POSTLUDE “When the Saints Go Marching In”

*The congregation may stand.

Our worship has ended; now let our service begin!

Service Notes...

The flowers this morning are given in loving memory of our parents by Tom & Kathy Phillips.

Welcoming you this morning are (10:00): Midge & Rod Hurtuk.

Our Deacon welcoming you this morning (10:00): Brian Pabst.

The Rose of Remembrance is given to the Funky Dawgz for blessing us with their music again this year!

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey M. Gallagher, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Ruth Nye, *Associate Pastor*

Molli Mitchell, *Student Pastor*

Allan Conway, *Minister of Music*

Tonya Lyon, *Director of Finance*

Keri Condos, *Church Administrator*

Kristen Gallagher, *Director of Children Ministries*

Alison Pires, *Director of Youth Ministries*

Melanie Young, *Sexton*

Teresa Green, *Director, Tolland Green Learning Center*

Rev. Donald G. Miller, *Pastor Emeritus*

Rev. Hannah Howe, *Pastor Emerita*

Rev. Dr. Robert J. Wright, Jr., *Pastor Emeritus*

With open minds and compassionate hearts, we seek to be God's loving hands in the world.



United Congregational Church of Tolland

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

45 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT 06084

(860) 875-4160 www.ucctolland.org

MARDI GRAS SUNDAY

February 23, 2020

10:00 A.M.

SUGGESTED READING FROM PEW BIBLES: Exodus 24:12-18

THE APPROACH TO GOD

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING “Grazing in the Grass”

Hugh Masekela

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the day that God has made:

Many: So let us rejoice and throw beads and be glad in it!

One: It's Mardi Gras Sunday! A day of celebration! A day to sing and dance and celebrate the goodness of God!

Many: We are excited to feel the Spirit swirling among us in this place—nudging us to clap and tap our feet and move—maybe even out of our pews and into the aisles.

One: So it's a good thing our steeple has been repaired because we know this isn't like any other service—because nobody leads a service like the Funky Dawgz!

Many: So what are we waiting for? Let the brass play! Let the music begin! We are ready to march in line with those saints! Let us worship our God!

*HYMN “Jesus on the Mainline”

(Prayer request cards will be collected & beads will be flung about during the singing of this hymn—heads up!)

Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want

Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want

Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want

Call Him up and tell him what you want.

Call Him up, Call Him up, and tell him what you want.

Call Him up, Call Him up, and tell him what you want.

Call Him up, Call Him up, and tell him what you want.

Call Him up and tell him what you want

*OPENING PRAYER

Many: Gracious God, it is so good to be together in this sanctuary today—filled to overflowing not only with singing and dancing, but joy, celebration, and of course, that mouthwatering aroma of pancakes. We pray now that your Spirit will swirl among us with the reckless abandon of a soaring saxophone solo, that the song in our hearts, melody in our steps and music in our souls, will have us strutting like a Bourbon Street band, ready to sing and spread your joy and love in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

red #513

*Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: As we approach the season of Lent, it only makes sense that as we clean our cupboards of pancake mix, we also clean our consciences, by offering our shortcomings and missteps to God. So let us join together in prayer

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Many: Holy God, in a few days ashes will mark our heads, a reminder of our mortality and thus, our imperfections. So now we offer you all those times we have mis-stepped or failed to step, that they might be burned away from us by the redeeming fire of your love, and turned into the ash from which we will begin our journey towards the depths of Holy Week, the joy of Easter, and all that lies beyond. May this be a journey, O God, in which we seek to step in line with all those saints who have gone before us, redeemed and renewed to spread your love across this world. We pray this along with all the prayers we bring before you now in this silence

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: As freely and generously as beads tossed into the crowd, is God's love and forgiveness offered to each one of us. So let us reach up, catch that forgiveness, and wear it as the blessing it is, as we say: **Thanks be to God!**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Lovely Day"

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (unison)

Eternal God, in the reading of the scripture, may Your Word be heard; in the meditation of our hearts, may Your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may Your Word be shown. Amen.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON The Gospel of Matthew 17:1-9

NT P. 18

A MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES "Spread Love"
"Spread Love"

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey M. Gallagher
A Funky Dawgz original

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS, PASTORAL AND LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

OFFERTORY "Battle of Jericho"

arr. Mark Hayes

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF ACCEPTANCE

red #514

*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.*

*HYMN "I'll Fly Away"

*One sweet morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.
I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.*

*THE BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE & TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD red #60 vs 2

*Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
With thee began, with thee shall end the day;
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon thy name.*