

**Congregational Church of Birmingham
United Church of Christ**

**Entering the Passion of Jesus:
Picturing Ourselves in the Story**



**The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
Lent: Week 4**

**Sunday, March 22, 2020
10:00 AM**

You May Contact Rev. Ott for any request or emergency at 989-245-0092 or REVLRO@aol.com.

Prayer Request? Contact Rev. Ott or the church office to have prayers included in the worship service prayer time and the Weekly Prayers email.

Are You in the Loop? Stay current on all CCB news. Contact the church office to receive our email communications.

* indicates those who are able will stand. **Bold** indicates in unison.

GATHERING MUSIC

"Enter the Story"

Bell

WELCOME & ENTERING THE STORY

Pastor Louise

Enter the Passion

Worship Design Studio Series - "Entering the Passion"

(Congregation Sings as Led)

Marcia McFee

Chuck Bell

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 8/8. It begins with a boxed 'E' indicating the starting chord. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into three lines of music. The first line contains measures 1-5, the second line contains measures 6-12, and the third line contains measures 13-16. There are first and second endings marked with '1.' and '2.' respectively. The word 'ritenuto' is written above the final measure of the third line.

En - ter. ___ En - ter the pas - sion. ___ En - ter the place we be - long,

6 not just look - ing on. For this is our pas - sion. ___ En - ter the pas - sion. ___ 1.

13 2. En - ter the sto - ry... ___ En - ter the pas - sion... ___ *ritenuto* En - ter His pas - sion... ___

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www.chuckbellmusic.com ~ info@chuckbellmusic.com

***OPENING PRAYER IN UNISON**

Pastor Louise

It is so hard to not be afraid.

**Sometimes our fear makes us less compassionate,
and more judgmental.**

We think we can ward off getting hurt by holding back,

**unwilling to risk putting ourselves out there
for the sake of love.**

Forgive us, O God.

**Encourage us to extravagant acts of love,
especially when we are frightened.**

**You entered our story through Jesus,
now help us to enter fully into the story
of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

GETTING PERSPECTIVE

Telling the Story: Through a Child's Eyes

Mark 14:3-9

It was two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. **[Amen!]** Jesus was at Bethany, visiting the house of Simon, who had a skin disease. **[Oh, No!]**

During dinner, a woman came in with a vase containing a very expensive perfume called nard. She broke the vase and poured the perfume on Jesus' head as a way to honor him. **[Amen!]**

Some grew angry. **[Oh, No!]** They said to each other, "Why waste the perfume? This could have been sold for almost a year's pay and the money given to the poor." They scolded the woman. **[Oh, No!]**

Jesus defended her, saying, "Leave her alone." **[Amen!]** "Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me." **[Amen!]**

"You will always have the poor with you; and whenever you want, you can do good things for them. But you won't always have me here." **[Oh, No!]**

"She has done what she could. She has anointed my body ahead of my time for burial. I tell you the truth that, anywhere in the world the good news is announced, what she has done will be told in memory of her." **[Amen!]**

We will dare to join the journey. [*Hand to heart.*]

We will walk your loving way. [*Walk in place.*]

We will live your sacred story,

[Hold hands like opening a book.]
Through the things we do and say.
[Hands open and outstretched on "do."
Hand cupped to sides of mouth on "say."] **Amen.** [Praying hands.]

THE DEEPER STORY – PSALM 23

MUSIC OF THE DAY

"A Resting Place"
Pastor Louise

original

DWELLING IN THE STORY

(A kind of "midrash" based on the artwork.)

"Enter the Passion"

(Congregation Sings as Led)

Enter. Enter the passion.

Enter the place we belong, not just looking on.

For this is *our* passion. Enter the passion.

Enter the story...Enter the passion...Enter His passion.

THE CONVERSATION

Pastor Louise & Congregation

THE BODY OF CHRIST PRAYS

OUR PRAYERS OFFERED

Pastor Louise

We continue to pray for:

- Carly & Amy Moe, for the health and viability of their pregnancy
- Char, Marla Otterbacher's mother, in treatment for breast cancer
- John Biersdorf, in nursing care following a stroke
- Liz Hoban, recovering from gastrectomy surgery
- Lynn, Leslie Benyo's sister, home from the hospital
- Melissa and Calliope Crook, to be reunited soon
- Rob, Sue Potter's brother, with metastasized cancer in his bones
- Ruth Biersdorf, in treatment for cancer
- Victims of war, violence, and natural disasters everywhere
- Youth and adults with mental health challenges

THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER OF JESUS

CH pg. 775 (v. 2)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

A TIME OF OFFERING OURSELVES

GIVING INVITATION

What extravagance demonstrates our love and devotion to God? Jesus honors the woman who risks criticism to be lavish. May our daily actions be poured out of our love for God and for one another. Our giving commitments and weekly offerings can be mailed to the church or use the donate link on our website, www.ccbucc.org. And we invite you to take out your phones and go to the Facebook page of the Congregational Church of Birmingham and post. OR send a text message to share your prayers for encouragement and love to people you know. <https://www.facebook.com/ccbucc/>

Want to give electronically? Go to the "Donate" link at www.ccbucc.org, log in and donate to whatever fund you choose – Giving Commitments, the five UCC Offerings, other Outreach partners, and more! Please contact Lynn Wilsher, Treasurer, if you have questions at treasurerccb@gmail.com.

CALL TO MINISTRY

(Please refer to the Ministry Updates following the worship service.)

ENTERING THE WORLD'S STORY

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Pastor Louise

ONE: The peace of Christ IS with you.

ALL: And also with you!

(Please offer one another signs of God's peace and hope.)

Worship Notes: Liturgy and Design © 2019 worshipdesignstudio.com, adapted by permission. CCLI #741179

WE THANK our tech team: Gabriel White-Vega, Chris Hiner, and Guy Creasey for all their help with today's service.

OUR MINISTRY UPDATES

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING COLLECTION - During this time of physical separation, there is an even greater need to stay connected. From Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky:

- "Every hand that we don't shake must become a phone call that we place."
- "Every embrace that we avoid must become a verbal expression of warmth and concern."
- "Every inch and every foot that we physically place between ourselves and another, must become a thought as to how we might be of help to that other, should the need arise."

There is a greater need than ever in this time of uncertainty. The United Church of Christ's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering is being collected THIS MONTH, and carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

In this time of need, your generous support helps to do more than we can ever imagine to create a new future for our neighbors both near and far. Stay connected and invest in our neighbor's futures by clicking on the Donate link on our website: www.ccbucc.org

ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Please email your contribution to the combined Annual Report to Beth in the church office (ccbinfo@cclub.org) by tomorrow, Monday, March 23, 2020. Thank you!

LENTEN ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SERIES: You may attend "Entering the Passion of Jesus" with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, VIRTUALLY on Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:00 PM, OR Wednesday mornings, 10:00-11:30 AM, NOW through March 31 or April 1. We'll be in touch with detailed ways to access this study class remotely.

LIGHTHOUSE EASTER FLOWER ALTERNATIVE: In lieu of purchasing Easter plants this year, see the order form later in this bulletin for details of an opportunity to help local families through Lighthouse of Oakland County. Deadline is Monday, April 6.

IT'S BROOKER SCHOLARSHIP TIME!

Students are invited to apply for the

KENNETH BROOKER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Application Deadline: Monday, April 20, 2020

Scholarship awards will be given in worship on Sunday, May 17, 2020.

A Scholarship is awarded to a student who:

1. Is a current member of CCBUCC and has attended CCBUCC for the three (3) consecutive years preceding the application;
2. Is active in church activities and any of the following: community service activities, extracurricular activities, or is working to pay for his/her education; and
3. Will be attending, or currently attends, a traditional two or four-year undergraduate college or trade school.

Applicant must supply evidence of high school graduation and acceptance at a two or four-year undergraduate college or trade school.

Previous year's recipients are invited to apply for renewal of the scholarship. This is a shorter form that requests information about activities at the student's college or university and other community activities.

Application forms are available on the church website.

What's Happening at CCB-UCC This Week

Bold indicates CCB and/or UCC related event. Regular font indicates rental event.

Sunday **10:00 AM** **Worship** (live stream or online video post only)
3/22/20 **11:15 AM** **Leadership Assembly Meeting** (via phone)

Monday **Annual Reports Due to Church Office**
3/23/20

Tuesday **6:30 PM** **"Entering the Passion" C.E. Series**
3/24/20 (remote access only)

Wednesday **10:00 AM** **"Entering the Passion" C.E. Series**
3/25/20 (remote access only)

Thursday **10:00 AM** **Piano Tuning**
3/26/20

Friday 2:00 PM Family Farms Cooperative (parking lot only)
3/27/20

Saturday **Nothing Today**
3/28/20



EASTER FLOWER ALTERNATIVE

In light of the serious hardship our community is suffering we suggest, in lieu of flowers, making a special offering to Lighthouse to be used for providing food assistance to local families. You can still dedicate your offering to remember and/or honor friends and loved ones. Complete and mail this form along with your donation to: CCB-UCC, 1000 Cranbrook Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. Or you may donate electronically via E-Offering at the "Donate" link on our website (www.ccbucc.org) and select "Lighthouse of Oakland County", then complete and email this form to the church office at: ccbinfo@ccbucc.org. All dedications received **by Monday, April 6, 2020**, will be included in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

**Thank you for your generosity in contributing
to bring an Easter meal to a family in need.**

Your Name: _____

Donation Amount: \$_____ Check Cash E-Offering

If donating by check, please write "Lighthouse" on the memo line.

Dedication:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

A Just World for All

Fourth Sunday of Lent **March 22, 2020**

Welcome to CCB-UCC an "Open and Affirming" Church

We warmly welcome everyone to worship and into the full life and leadership of the church. Whatever your background - your race, your nationality, your physical or mental condition, your gender, your sexual orientation - whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you in love as Jesus Christ welcomes all. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, may the comfort and challenge of God's presence renew and inspire us all throughout the coming week. Again, welcome!



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Contact a Stephen Minister Leader:

Dr. Paul von Oeyen 248-646-0837

Rev. Louise R. Ott 989-245-0092

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM

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a just
world
for all
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MICHIGAN CONFERENCE WEBSITE: www.michucc.org

DENOMINATIONAL WEBSITE: www.ucc.org

CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Ministers - The Congregation

Joe Bentley, Interim Choral Director

Guy Creasey, Church Sexton

Rev. Louise R. Ott, Pastor

Kimberly Rawlings, Substitute Accompanist

Beth Prevost, Church Administrator

Office Hours: Open Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM, lunch break > 12:30 PM-1:00 PM