

stillspeaking Daily Devotional United Church of Christ — March 15, 2018
Living Word; Living World by John A. Nelson

*Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll; and he said to me, "Take it, and eat; it will be bitter to your stomach, but sweet as honey in your mouth." So I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it; it was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. Then they said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."
- Revelation 10:8-11*

The bold, ancient Revelation to John repeats the even more ancient vision of Ezekiel. Take in the Living Word of God. Consume the Word with your body as well as with your mind and heart and spirit. Take it all in, with this warning: you will be changed.

The Word will go down easily, sweet in your mouth. It will then burn and pierce. Like the agony of restoring a dislocated joint: the Word will reveal the depth of your soul's injury. Like the sourness of a broken relationship: the Word will describe the end of the dream of love. Like the earth, screaming in the form of climate chaos: the Word will point to the consequences of exploitation instead of reverence. Is it simple coincidence that as I read and ponder this scripture I am also reading Kristin Ohlson's *The Soil Will Save Us?* Perhaps not. The bitterness she describes is in the land, used without understanding: its extraordinary, complex microbial life devastated by humanity. We have ploughed, paved, and depleted the soil. Earth responds with terrible devastations: an awful prophecy of overuse and abuse.

Those digging deep, looking carefully, listening quietly, have witnessed the deadly human uses of earth — and also its extraordinary ability to heal. When God's creation is revered (think of no-till farming; of massive composting; of vast new expanses of photosynthesizing plants), the soil has the capacity to heal creation. Which means that the earth, also, is God's prophet, bearing God's Word.

Prayer:

Living Word, you speak and we tremble. You sing and we are renewed. You offer your very self to us, so that our own selves may find healing and hope. Give us courage today to take the bitterness; give us promise today of the sweetness that is ours, with you. Amen.

About the Author:

John A. Nelson is Pastor and Teacher of Church on the Hill, UCC, in Lenox, Massachusetts.



Mission Statement:

God calls us to live our faith as disciples
Sharing the love of God revealed through Christ
In the community and the world.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor, Rev. Kirk W. Bruce: pilgrimpastor@ameritech.net

F.F. Director, Marilyn Freeman: pilgrimce@ameritech.net

Music Director, Kyle Kelvington: kelvingtonk@gmail.com

Secretary, Kelly Gerstenberger: pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net

Acolyte: Thank You!

Altar Flowers: In memory of loved ones.
Herb & Lois Rake

Greeters: Everyone present today!

Ushers: Thank You!

PowerPoint: Cheryl Bruce

Liturgist: Ken Anderson

Fellowship: Thank You!

Steeple Lighting: In Memory of Dawn Gage
Girl Scout Troop #520 of the Western Reserve
Girl Scout Council

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

A Caring Church for Thinking People

130 Broad Blvd † Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 † 330.928.4847
www.pilgrimcf.org †



Sunday, March 18, 2018



Time May Be Running But, Its Not Out Yet!
Rev. Kirk Bruce

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
A Caring Church for Thinking People
Sunday, March 18, 2018 † Fifth Sunday in Lent

THE PRELUDE *O Sacred Head Adorned* J.G. Walther
*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* No. 1

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 119)
One: We gather in your house, O Lord, seeking your presence in our lives.
All: We come to hear your word and place it in the depths of our hearts.
One: Teach us your decrees and commands. Teach us to love you and follow your calling.
All: Let us delight in your word and celebrate in your presence now and always.

*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) Ken Anderson
We come into your house O Lord because, with you our days are fuller, richer and filled with joy. When we follow your callings, life has meaning, purpose and direction. Come, O Lord. Come, and call our names. Come, and lead us. Come and make us your own. Hear us now as we pray together, the prayer your Son taught us, "Our Father . . . "[debt, debtors]

*THE GLORIA PATRI (Red Hymnal) No. 513

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD AND EACH OTHER

*GREETING EACH OTHER IN CHRIST

OUR LIFE TOGETHER Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Kirk W. Bruce
Faith Focus Parable of the Sower – Sowing seeds for the Pilgrim Garden

ANTHEM: *Jesus Died on Calvary's Mountain* K. Lee Scott
 Ken Anderson, Soloist
 Pilgrim Choir

***all who are able may stand**

WE GIVE TO GOD

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY *He* Jack Richards

*THE DOXOLOGY (Red Hymnal) No. 515

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER
(Red Hymnal) *Abide With Me (verse 1)* No. 209
Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide; when other helpers fail, and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.

THE MORNING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

*HYMN (Black Hymnal) *This Is a Day of New Beginnings* No. 417

GOD GIVES TO US

SCRIPTURES Jeremiah 31:31 - 34 (page 694) Ken Anderson
 Hebrews 5:5 - 10 (page 194)

SERMON *Time May Be Running But, Its Not Out Yet* Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE

*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *Christian, Rise and Act Thy Creed* No. 416

*THE BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Here I Am Lord (verse 3 with refrain)* Dan Schutte
 (We invite you to join hands as we sing)
I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will give my life to them, whom shall I send? Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

POSTLUDE *Day by Day* Stephen Schwartz

SIGN-IN

There are worship pads on each pew in the sanctuary.
We joyfully welcome all visitors! Please join us again!
Please sign in to let us know you are worshipping with us today.
We are so glad You are Worshiping with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray for:

Howell & Stimmel families for peace and healing.
Amy, a co-worker, with hearing loss due to an ear infection. Pray that medicine will restore her hearing.
Sister who needs help and guidance with addiction problems.
Mark Poling, step-son of Dr. Don, recovering from a stroke.
Jane (92), a friend, in the hospital dealing with several medical issues.
A friend with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), & the family, that is struggling.
Friends Carole and Jed.
Kelly K., so she gets her transfer back home closer to her parents.
My family to be healed & reunited together. To keep us close to God & allow his grace for a miracle.
Rev. Stephen Szilagyi for healing from surgery & positive outcome for his cancer diagnosis.
Healing for those who are sick or dealing with difficult diagnosis.



Easter Lilies for April 1, 2018

Sign-up for Easter Lilies in the social hall. Cost: \$ 12.00. Check payable to: Pilgrim UCC

Pilgrim will take the ***One Great Hour of Sharing*** offering **TODAY!**

“One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. We are called by God to be in community to practice love and compassion. We need to care for those around us, wherever they may be. When we give our loving legacy we become a blessing to people we don’t know and bless them in ways we can’t expect and make a difference beyond what we imagine.” Paraphrased from information at http://www.ucc.org/oghs_worship_resources

Faith Formation Board -

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday!

The children will have their annual Palms Parade during Worship!

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, activities & crafts. . .

To help now, please bring wrapped candy in and place in the donation box in the Social Hall.

To help is needed on March 30, 2018 to fill the plastic eggs with candy & set-up for the event.

To help the day of the event, March 31, 2018, contact Mitzi, Evelyn, Marilyn or the church office at 330-928-4847.

Due to the lack of middle and high school Youth. . .

Help is needed in the kitchen to help with the cooking and serving of the pancakes and sausage.

Help is also needed to supervise the craft tables, face painting, calk walk, age-divided Easter Egg Hunt, don the Easter Bunny costume, take & print photos with the Easter Bunny AND clean-up.

Cakes are needed for the CAKE WALK, too! Drop off on Friday or early Saturday morning.

The fliers are posted at the main entrances & bulletin boards!

Please share with your neighbors, family and friends! Thank You!

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 18, 2018-One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

9:00 a.m. Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room

10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk Bruce, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour-Team #3, Social Hall

11:45 a.m. Faith Formation meeting, Adult Library

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Akron Area Actors Guild (AA) - Rehearsal, Social Hall

Monday, March 19, 2018

5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Summit County Teen Institute, Social Hall

6:30 p.m. Community Connections Committee meeting, Adult Library

7:00 p.m. Council meeting, Heritage Room

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Adult Library

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Akron Area Actors Guild (AA) - Rehearsal, Social Hall

8:00 p.m. Fellowship of the Spirit Alcoholics Anonymous (FOTS AA), Heritage Room

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

2:15 - 9:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin & Cello Lessons,

Adult Library, Children’s Library, & Nursery

3:45 p.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal, Music Room

7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Heritage Room

Thursday, March 22, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #3186 Meeting, Social Hall

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Adult Library

Friday, March 23, 2018

Saturday, March 24, 2018

11:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Cello Lessons,

Children’s Library

8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

Sunday, March 25, 2018 - Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room

10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk Bruce, Sanctuary

Children’s Palms Parade

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Team #4, Social Hall

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Akron Area Actors Guild (AA) - Rehearsal, Social Hall

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #169, Adult Library

Monday, March 26, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #840, A.T.T.I.C.

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Hunt, don the Easter Bunny costume, take & print photos with the Easter Bunny AND clean-up.

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