

From *stillspeaking* Daily Devotional ([dailydevotional@ucc.org](mailto:dailydevotional@ucc.org)) February 26, 2018

"From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then God sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died." - Numbers 21:4-9

Long journeys can reveal, deeply, the nature of the traveler. A person in a hard wilderness behaves differently than the same person comfortably at home. At this point in the Israelites' journey to Egypt, we witness humanity at its most petulant: "There's no food, and besides that it tastes lousy." Seriously?

Could God be so easily bothered that the answer to griping was to deploy venomous snakes? Go just a bit deeper and we see that the story doesn't state positively that the serpents were a response to the muttering: we jump to that conclusion because one follows the other. Travel a bit further through a study Bible, and we find that snakes were common fertility symbols in ancient cultures of the region: Seriously?

There's more than one way of understanding our vast and mysterious God. It could be that the story reminds us of untamed divine anger. The story could also illustrate what happens when, stressed by hunger and fear, we forsake gratitude and replace it with complaint: now our world, stripped of praise, becomes filled with peril.

Hunger is terrible: not to be ignored. The snakes still have so many meanings they wriggle out of our grasp. The story continues — and in the continuing, despite our complaining, God cures.

#### Prayer

O Merciful Provider, O Mystery, O Perplexing One: may my spirit and mind and belly be open to all that you are giving. May my complaints, like chaff, be blown away. Even in my perplexity, grant me grace to live in awe. 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](mailto:pilgrimpastor@ameritech.net)

F.F. Director, Marilyn Freeman: [pilgrimce@ameritech.net](mailto:pilgrimce@ameritech.net)

Music Director, Kyle Kelvington: [kelvingtonk@gmail.com](mailto:kelvingtonk@gmail.com)

Secretary, Kelly Gerstenberger: [pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net](mailto:pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net)

Acolyte: *Thank You!*

Altar Flowers:

*In Memory of Family! Helen Hapanowicz*

Greeters: *Everyone present today!*

Ushers: *Thank You!*

PowerPoint: *Cheryl Bruce*

Liturgist: *Bob Kindel*

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](http://www.pilgrimcf.org) †



## Sunday, March 4, 2018



***You Can't Have One Without The Other***  
**Rev. Kirk Bruce**

**Pilgrim United Church of Christ**  
**A Caring Church for Thinking People**  
**Sunday, March 4, 2018 † Third Sunday in Lent**

THE PRELUDE *Laudamus te* Antonio Vivaldi  
\*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *The Church is One Foundation* No. 260

**OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 19)  
One: The heavens declare the glory of God and the skies proclaim the works of His hands.  
**All: Day after day and night after night they speak to us about who God is.**  
One: There is no ear that does not hear, the Lord is our God.  
**All: It is the Lord who made us and we are His. Let us gather and celebrate this good news.**

\*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) Bob Kindel  
**We come together in your house O Lord, to give you our thanks for the gift of life this day. And, we gather to ask your guiding presence to be upon us in the day to come. We are a people blessed by your hand. May we discover your blessing, appreciate your gift, and learn to give you our thanks. Come now as we pray 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 *Jesus the Good Shepherd - Psalm 23, Part 2*

ANTHEM: *I Wonder Why?* Lloyd Pfautsch  
Pilgrim Choir  
**\*all who are able may stand**

**WE GIVE TO GOD**

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY *Domine Deus* Antonio Vivaldi

\*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) *My Life Flows on in Endless Song* No. 476

**GOD GIVES TO US**

SCRIPTURES Exodus 20:1 - 17 (page 62) Bob Kindel  
John 2:12 - 22 (page 81)

SERMON *You Can't Have One Without The Other* Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

**WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE**

\*HYMN (Black Hymnal) *What a Covenant* No. 471

\*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 *Cum Sanato Spiritu* Antonio Vivaldi

## 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:**

Amy, a co-worker, with hearing loss due to an ear infection. Pray that medicine will restore some of 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, who are struggling.

Friends Carole and Jed.

Kelly K., so she gets her transfer back home closer to her parents.

My family to be healed and reunited together. To keep us close to God and allow his grace to work out a miracle for our situation.

Rev. Stephen Szilagyi for the skill of the surgeon's for his carotid surgery next week & positive outcome for his cancer diagnosis.



### **Interested in becoming a member of Pilgrim?**

A New-Member class is being planned.

Let Rev. Bruce or the church office (330-928-4847) know that you are interested!!

Pilgrim will take the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering on **March 18, 2018!**

"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](http://www.ucc.org/oghs_worship_resources)

### **Easter Lilies for April 1, 2018**

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

The monthly Pilgrim **Spire** is now available to be received by email.

If you would like to have yours emailed, please contact the office at 330.928.4847. Thank you!

The **Spire** is also available on the Pilgrim website at: [www.pilgrimcf.org](http://www.pilgrimcf.org)

**Faith Formation Board** - Breakfast with the Easter Bunny & the activities & crafts.

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

**To help on March 30, 2018** to fill the plastic eggs with the donated candy and set-up for the event, OR

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

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

Please share with your neighbors, family and friends!

Thank You!

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, March 4, 2018**

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, Social Hall

**11:45 a.m. Stewardship meeting, Heritage Room**

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

### **Monday, March 5, 2018**

3:30 - 7:00 pm Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Conferences, Classrooms

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

**6:30 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting, Adult Library**

### **Tuesday, March 6, 2018**

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

3:30 - 7:00 pm Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Conferences, Classrooms

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 7, 2018**

2:15 - 9:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin & Cello Lessons, Adult Library, Children's Library, & Nursery

3:30 - 7:00 pm Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Conferences, Classrooms

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

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

### **Thursday, March 8, 2018**

3:30 - 7:00 pm Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Conferences, Classrooms

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den Meetings, Adult & Children's Library, Nursery

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Heritage Room

### **Friday, March 9, 2018**

3:30 - 7:00 pm Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Conferences, Classrooms

8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Project Panda, Social Hall, Kitchen, Heritage Room, A.T.T.I.C.,

Rev. Greene Room, Adult Library, Children's Library, Nursery

### **Saturday, March 10, 2018**

**9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Free Community Lunch (FCL), Social Hall & Kitchen**

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

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #3186 - Pinewood Derby, Social Hour, Kitchen

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

### **Sunday, March 11, 2018**

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, Social Hall

**11:30 a.m. Music Committee meeting, Rev. Greene Room**

2:45 - 5:15 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #501, Adult Library

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 12, 2018**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #840, ATTIC

**6:30 p.m. Trustee Board meeting, Adult Library**