

This Little Light by Vicki Kemper

Jesus said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lamp stand?" - Mark 4:21

I like the spiritual "This Little Light of Mine" as much as the next person, but lately I have been trying to sing it more thoughtfully, and with some humility.

Ever since a choir showed up, uninvited and unannounced, to a somber event. Ever since the choir's members sang joyfully about letting their lights shine, even as a worried and brokenhearted father of four prepared to tell the press why he was taking sanctuary from federal immigration officials.

The performance implied that we—the privileged people with papers, the citizens providing sanctuary—were the shining ones. The song seemed to shout, "Hey, look at us and this awesome thing we're doing!"

Yes, I understand that sometimes we sing to keep evil at bay. Other times we sing to keep from weeping. Still, it is worth remembering that the good works that flow from our love of God and neighbor are not about us. The light that shines is not ours.

So what is this little (or not so little) light we're so proud to shine?

Fannie Lou Hamer and other civil rights leaders sang about the light of freedom. Others have named the light joy, peace, and hope. We might also be shining the Spirit that enlivens and empowers, or the very Christ himself, the light no lampshade or gloom can overcome.

And *that* is a light worth revealing.

Prayer

Light of Love, may I never try to hide you under the bed. And may your light shine so brightly through me that I never mistake it for something that's mine. Amen.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vicki Kemper is the Pastor of First Congregational, UCC, of Amherst, 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

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Acolyte: *Thank You!*
Altar Flowers: *In loving memory of Ralph.
Sue Gillman*

Greeters: *Everyone present today!*
Ushers: *Thank You!*

PowerPoint: *Cheryl Bruce*
Liturgist: *Kathie Richards*

Fellowship: *Thank You!*
Steeple Lighting: *Bev Hannahs*

Thank you!

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, June 3, 2018



Honoring the Sabbath
Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
A Caring Church for Thinking People
Sunday, June 3, 2018 † Second Sunday after Pentecost

THE PRELUDE *Prelude in C Major* J. S. Bach
*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *Praise to the Lord, The Almighty* No. 15

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 136)
One: Let us gather and give our thanks to the Lord of Lords, for His love endures forever.
All: We shall gather and give our thanksgiving to the God of gods, for His love endures, both today and tomorrow.
One: Let us give God our thanks for He does great wonders.
All: He was here in the beginning of time and will be present even when time ends. His love endures forever.

*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) Kathie Richards
Great and wonderful God, we gather to give you our thanks for loving all that you have created. Thank you for loving us even when we have failed to live out your calling. By your gracious love and leadership, you teach us how to love you and one another. 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
Announcement from the Trustee Chair Dan Gerstenberger

CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Kirk W. Bruce
Faith Focus Jesus Feeds the 5,000 – Two Fish Nancy Anderson

ANTHEM: *Peace Like A River* Arranged by Donald Moore
***all who are able may stand** Pilgrim Choir

WE GIVE TO GOD

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY *Fanfare for the Common Man* Aaron Copeland

*THE DOXOLOGY (Red Hymnal) No. 515

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER
(Black Hymnal) *Sweet Hour of Prayer (vs. 1)* No. 505
Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Maker's throne let all my needs and wants be known. In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempter's snare by your return, sweet hour of prayer!

THE MORNING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

*HYMN (Black Hymnal) *When Peace, Like a River* No. 438

GOD GIVES TO US

SCRIPTURES Deuteronomy 5:12 - 15 (page 151) Kathie Richards
Mark 2:23 - 3:6 (page 32)

SERMON Honor the Sabbath Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE

*HYMN (Red Hymnal) Oh Master Let Me Walk with Thee No. 418

*THE BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *(We invite you to join hands as we sing)*
Spirit Song by John Wimber
O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love. Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole.

POSTLUDE *Prelude in C Major* J. S. Bach

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!

Pray for:

Marsha, a dear friend for over 40 years, and her struggle with mental illness.
All who vacation this summer to find time to reconnect with their families.
The family and victims of the Santa Fe, Texas high school shootings.
A young couple in a broken marriage.
Jane and her family.
Our niece Becky as she moves to North Carolina for a change in life and career.
My nephew, to find comfort & solace in a difficult home life.
Ethan Perkins Rios



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you like to pray for others? If so, would you like to be part of Pilgrim's prayer chain? Then please let the church office know!

By phone: 330.928.4847 or By email: pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net

Father's Day - June 17th

Quotes, quips, and favorite photos of the men in your life are needed by

Monday, June 11th

Marked photos will be returned.

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim UCC of Cuyahoga Falls:

Thank you for your gift of \$135 to Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries!

Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries provide an important ministry in the United Church of Christ by preparing leaders for ministry in congregations and community settings, locally and across the globe. Each seminary is a vibrant, caring, and inspiring place to pursue theological education. Students are both nurtured and challenged as they pursue their call to ministry. These students are serving and will serve the wider church with pastoral skill.

Thank you for investing in the leadership of the United Church of Christ. Enclosed is your thank you certificate (Bulletin Board across from the office) for your 2017 gifts to CUE seminaries. Please display the certificate proudly in your congregation.

Thank you for supporting theological education as a vital part of your ministry.

With gratitude, Kiely Todd Roska, Director, CUE Seminaries

CALENDAR

*Thank You Don
for your gift of music today!*

*Thank You Choir
for your gift of music
this year!*

Sunday, June 3, 2018

9:00 a.m. Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room
10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk Bruce, Sanctuary
Don Moore, Guest Organist
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Free Community Lunch, Social Hall
11:45 a.m. Stewardship Board meeting, Heritage Room
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Akron Area Actors Guild (AA) - Rehearsal, Social Hall

Monday, June 4, 2018

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

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

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

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

11:00 Staff meeting, Office

Thursday, June 7, 2018

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. North East Ohio School of Ministry - Open House, Heritage Room
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Adult Library

Friday, June 8, 2018

4:00 p.m. Megan Davis & Bradley Gerber Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, June 9, 2018

2:30 p.m. Davis/Gerber Wedding Ceremony, Sanctuary
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

Sunday, June 10, 2018

10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk Bruce, Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Team 4, Social Hall

Monday, June 11, 2018

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

Marty Zimmerman will be celebrating her 90th birthday on June 30th.
Please send her a card to help her celebrate her day to:

Marty Zimmerman,
1500 State Road, Suite 226, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

