

Sunday Worship
March 31, 2019 | 9:00 & 10:15am

PRELUDE | *What A Friend We Have in Jesus* arr. Mark Hayes | Susan Carroll, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | Rev. Erica Thompson

Visitors, we are blessed that you are here today. We encourage everyone to wear a name tag and complete the information in the pew pad. If you have a prayer request, please complete a prayer card and place in the offering plate.

***CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT** | *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (verse 1)

**I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."

Lord, as we search now, let us find you.

All: As we knock, open the door for us.

One: Let us know you, that we may praise you,

All: and love you, that we may serve you.

***OPENING HYMN #437** | *It's Me, It's Me, O Lord*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RENEWAL

Beloved God, with the eagerness of a child, you wait for our coming; with the urgency of a mother, you long for our return; with the anxious heart of a father, your arms ache to hold us. The disappointment, the judgment, the turning away, that's us, not you. Forgive us and heal us of everything that recoils from our common humanity. You have given us such worth; help us to take all creation at your valuation and to know ourselves, and all your children, precious and loved. (Time for silent prayers and petitions)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GIFT OF MUSIC | *Down to the River to Pray* | Traditional | Cynthia Wolcott, soloist

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way. O sisters, let's go down to the river to pray. O brothers, let's go down, come on down. O Christians, let's go down, come on down.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

OFFERTORY | Sharing our gifts, tithes and offerings | *Hear My Prayer* by Moses Hogan
O Lord, please hear my prayer, in the mornin' when I rise. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. Keep me safe within your arms. It's your servant bound for glory. When my work on earth is done, and you come to take me home, just to know I'm bound for glory, and to hear you say well done. Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.**

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL | *Star Factor* by Christy and Daniel Semsen
*Kathryn Swanson, director; Tiffany Smetak-Scurr, assistant director;
Susan Carroll, musical director; Maurice Thomas, bass; John Giacchi, drums*

Camp Directors: Julia Wickless and Rose Bourdeaux

Kit Bricklebee: Katherine Greden

Bricklebee's personal assistant: Charlotte Reidel

*Campers: Anslea Aucoin, Janai Ayala, Cole Farnham, Gianna Giacchi,
Anna Magnusson, Mia Magnusson, Claire Reidel, Sophie Scurr,
Stella Scurr, Trevor Shepard, Maya Thompson, Noelle Thompson,
Faraja Williams*

Day One: Welcome to Camp

Camp Heart and Soul | Faraja Williams, solo

*Whatever You Do | Rose Bourdeaux, Julia Wickless,
Anna Magnusson, soloists*

*Where Your Treasure Is | Gianna Giacchi, Stella Scurr,
Noelle Thompson, soloists*

Day Two: Preparing for the Big Show

Body of Christ | Trevor Shepard and Anslea Aucoin, soloists

*Child of God | Maya Thompson, Julia Wickless,
Rose Bourdeaux, soloists*

Day Three: The Contest

Let Everything That Has Breath | Gianna Giacchi
and Stella Scurr, soloists
Body of Christ (reprise)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE | *Down to the River to Pray* arr. Wilberg
Sunday worship is ended; all are invited to go forth and serve.

AFTER THE SERVICE, PLEASE GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR. THANK YOU.

*You are invited to rise on your feet or in your heart.

Church Leadership

Rev. Erica A. Thompson, Senior Minister

Rev. Erica Wimber Avena, Transitional Associate Minister

Jack A. Pott, Director of Music & Arts

Helena Carvalho, Director of Operations

Rhonda Mitchell, Director of Communications

Susan Carroll, Organist & Music Associate

Rev. Mia J. Douglas, Director of Discipleship

Marcie Jackson, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Tobey Aubert, Youth Director

Bart Halloran, Moderator

Linda Kelly, Vice Moderator

Today

For a complete list of events, programs, and volunteer opportunities, please visit ahcc.org.

TIME TO ORDER EASTER LILIES (\$13)

You can order lilies in Drew Hall on Sundays through Apr. 7 or online at ahcc.org/lilies through Apr. 8. Your lily donation will be delivered to members who are homebound or in our special prayers. We need volunteers to help deliver lilies on Easter Sunday. Please contact Camille Boyd at cboyd@ahcc.org or 860.216.9825 if you can help.

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR ART IN MOTION

Mon, Apr. 8, 1:30pm | New Britain Museum of American Art | \$11.00pp

All are welcome to attend a docent-led tour of this special exhibit, *The Beyond: Georgia O'Keeffe and Contemporary Art*. We'll meet at the museum (carpooling suggested) for a tour of over 36 of Georgia O'Keeffe's iconic works alongside the works of 20 contemporary artists. Sign up at the Member Engagement table and place a check in the box, made out to AHCC with NBMAA in the memo.

JOIN MORE THAN 100 OTHERS ON THE AHCC GROWTH TEAM

No meetings! No standing obligations!

There are 106 members of the AHCC Growth Team. Growth Team members take part in growing our church and its impact by receiving and sharing information and inviting people to AHCC events and worship services; Growth Team members have the opportunity to help with special events and community impact projects. Stop by the Growth Team table in Drew Hall to sign up, or send an email to growing@ahcc.org.

Member Engagement | [Mia Douglas](#) | 860.216.9834 | mdouglas@ahcc.org

LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES CONTINUES

Thursdays, Apr. 4 & 11, doors open 6:45pm; speaker 7:00pm | Sanctuary | \$10

We are pleased to finish our Lenten Speaker Series featuring nationally known speakers Rev. Dr. Otis Moss and Rev. Dr. James Forbes. Tickets available at ahcc.org/speakers, or at the door with cash or check.

DINE AROUND

Thur, Apr. 19, gather at 5:30pm; dinner at 6:15pm | Nutshell Restaurant

Join this group of people who enjoy dining, talking, and laughing together. Order from the menu. Separate checks. ALL are welcome. Handicapped accessible. Sign up at the Member Engagement table in Drew Hall or email June Day at jday@ahcc.org, text or call 860.874.6430.

AHCC THRIFT SHOP/ BOUTIQUE

We have welcomed Spring into the shop with all new clothes, shoes, jewelry, Easter bunnies, and more! Be sure to drop by and see the work that our awesome volunteers have done. Fridays, 9:30am - 2:00pm; first and third Sundays, 10:15am - 12:15pm.

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY 2020

June 30 - July 9, 2020: 10-day tour of Germany, Austria, and Venice

Only a few spots left! Tour Leader: Rev. Erica Thompson; Tour Coordinators: Diane and David Hathaway. Registration is limited to 32 people. Register now at Register-Now.ittworld.com; using code Hathaway20. Questions? Contact Diane Hathaway at 719.640.4753 or didihath@gmail.com.

Women's Spirituality | [Erica Thompson](#) | 860.216.9823 | ethompson@ahcc.org

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUPS

10:00am, first & third Tues of the month, AHCC; 7:00pm, first Thursday of the month, 136 Whiting Lane, West Hartford

Our time together is spirited, joy-filled, prayerful, and full of laughter. No need to commit to being present at every gathering – come as you are, when you are able.

WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT

Fri, Apr. 26 - Sun, Apr. 28, Ender's Island Retreat Center | Mystic, CT

Join us for a weekend of fellowship, laughter, and reflection at the Women's Spring Retreat. Registration information at the Member Engagement table or online at ahcc.org/WSF_2019_Retreat

Adult Education | *Erica Avena* | 860.216.9822 | ewimberavena@ahcc.org

FORUM - RACISM IN AMERICA: THINGS WE DIDN'T LEARN IN SCHOOL

Sun, Apr. 7, 11:30am | Twichell

All are welcome to attend this SUSO-sponsored event facilitated by Martey Rhine, who brings a passion for racial justice along with 30 years of management and transformative mediation experience in the corporate and nonprofit sectors. Join us for an interactive session as we learn about our country's history and how it created and supports racism. We invite you to embark on a journey of self-awareness about how white people may be complicit in perpetuating our racist systems. Bring your curiosity and courage.

SERIES ON WORLD RELIGIONS

Thu, Apr. 25, 6:30pm: Buddhism, led by Dr. Leslie Desmangles

An exploration of the fundamental concepts of Buddhist philosophy as they relate to issues of social justice and human suffering. We will examine some Buddhist scripture passages, the practice of compassion toward others that leads to individual wisdom, the practice of perfections and spiritual enlightenment (nirvana), as well as some of the major differences between the Theravada and Mahayana sects.

- *Sun, Apr. 28, 11:30am, Hearing the Call: a Christian Journey with Islam*
- *Thu, May 2, 6:30pm, Hinduism*

Music & Arts | *Jack Pott* | 860.216.9831 | jpott@ahcc.org

ORGAN CONCERT

Sun, Apr. 7, 4:00pm | Free

Faythe Freese, Professor of Organ at the University of Alabama School of Music, will present a program of organ masterworks on AHCC's mighty Aeolian-Skinner organ.

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Fri, May 3, 7:00pm | Drew Hall

Calling people of all ages to share a song, spoken word or instrumental solo. All acts welcome for this free, family-friendly event! If needed, a pianist will be provided, or you can bring your own accompaniment, either live or recorded. Please email scarroll@ahcc.org to pre-register or for more information.

TODAY

Childcare is available on the SECOND FLOOR in rooms 207 & 208 for infants-pre-school.

There are no lessons for children in grades K-5 today. Children remain in worship for the Children's Musical. Lessons resume next Sunday, April 7.

LENTEN COLLECTION

Children are invited to participate in a special collection through Palm Sunday, April 14. Children in grades K-3 will collect funds to purchase materials for care baskets to be distributed to our members who might be homebound, in care facilities, or hospitalized. Children in grades 4-5 will collect funds to purchase materials to create school kits for Church World Service. Please contact Marcie Jackson, Dir. of CFM if you have any questions about the collection.

Youth & Teens | [Tobey Aubert](mailto:TobeyAubert) | 860.216.9835 | taubert@ahcc.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL

10:15 – 11:15am | *Youth Lounge/Classroom*

SERIES: Learning to love like Jesus.

Discovering how Jesus lived his life and how to imitate that love and kindness. This Sunday we will continue looking at the Gospel of Luke. There will be team competitions and candy prizes to add some fun to our learning time, as well as games to wrap up our time together!

HIGH SCHOOL

No meeting today

Holy Week & Easter

April 14, Palm Sunday | 9:00 & 10:15am

We journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross. Join us for a powerful worship experience as we recall the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the throngs who gathered to greet him.

April 18, Maundy Thursday | 6:00pm

Worship begins with a simple meal followed by a time in the sanctuary to move between four stations: Hand-washing, Anointing/Blessing, Confession/Writing, and Prayer. The evening will conclude with a brief time of worship together.

April 19, Good Friday Procession | 12:00

Procession begins at Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 Sigourney Street and concludes at Immanuel Congregational Church. Participants from several faith communities walk from church to church in the Asylum Hill neighborhood as brothers and sisters in faith.

Good Friday Worship | 7:00pm

AHCC Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra present this beautiful new Stabat Mater setting by Welsh composer Paul Mealor. The text of this 13-century hymn is a powerful meditation on the suffering of Mary during the Crucifixion, and takes the listener on a journey from darkness, despair and suffering, to light, rest, and finally, everlasting peace.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service | 6:00am

Elizabeth Park Overlook (corner of Prospect and Asylum Avenue). Join with other church and community members in an early morning celebration of the good news of Christ's resurrection! Bring a lawn chair and dress for the weather.

Sanctuary Worship | 9:00 & 10:30am

A celebratory worship service where the symbols of death are cast aside and the light of the resurrection shines forth in hymns of praise, words of hope and great music.

