



Welcome to worship at United Church of Christ Norwell. Whether you are a member of our church, a frequent attendee, or a first-time visitor, know you are welcomed here. We hope you will find your time among us inspiring and leave feeling strengthened and transformed by the love of God in Christ.

Listening devices for the hearing impaired and large print bulletins are available. **Note:** if you remove both hearing aids to use a listening device, please store them apart from each other to avoid sound system feedback.

Activity bags are also available for children to use (a Deacon or usher can assist you). Audio of the worship service can also be heard in the library. Please note that a parent must remain with their child(ren) in the library to supervise them.

Please note: This morning's service is being live streamed and will be broadcast by Harbor Media on Comcast and Verizon local channels. See announcements for details. The service is also available for viewing on our Vimeo channel and Facebook page.

United Church of Christ Norwell
We are a Christ-centered inclusive community called to ministry.
 P. O. Box 501, 460 Main Street, Norwell, MA 02061 | (781) 659-2887
www.uccnorwell.org | email: office@uccnorwell.org

Ministers to the World Ministers to the Congregation Rev. Leanne S. Walt Karen Harvey Debbie Wheeler Emily Mathews Jenny Healy Bob Caldeira Steve Burke Scott MacPherson Bill Pye Rev. Deborah Spratley Kim Foster and Sonia Kleimola	Lead Pastor Minister of Music Parish Administrator Communications Coordinator Children's and Family Minister Youth Minister Director of Finance & Operations Facilities Manager Sexton Pastor, Linden Ponds Community Church The New Nursery School Interim Co-Directors	All the Congregation All the Staff lwalt@uccnorwell.org, ext 12 kharvey@uccnorwell.org, ext 16 dwheeler@uccnorwell.org, ext 11 emathews@uccnorwell.org, ext 10 jhealy@uccnorwell.org, ext 28 bcaldeira@uccnorwell.org sburke@uccnorwell.org, ext 21 (contact through Debbie Wheeler) (contact through Debbie Wheeler) spratleydeborah@gmail.com newnurseryschooldirector@gmail.com 781-659-2535
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United Church of Christ Norwell

An Open and Affirming Church

February 18, 2024

10:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

Call of the Bell John Kelso

Welcome Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Gifford

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn #572 *Take Time to Be Holy* **HOLINESS**

Prayer of Confession (unison) Gwen Morgan

Dear God,
 We live life plugged in -
 to email, text messages, and social media -
 and to work obligations, volunteer commitments, family needs, and news cycles.
 Forgive us, Lord, when these things get in the way of our relationship with You.
 During Lent, help us to unplug from the rapid pace of life in order to find the quiet center.
 Help us to unplug from unrealistic expectations of ourselves and others.
 Help us to unplug from fear that holds us back and from guilt that paralyzes.
 Help us to unplug from indifference to get to the heart of the matter.
 Help us to set aside what we think we know about You,
 what we think we know about others,
 and what we think we know about ourselves
 to make way for a new experience of Your love. Amen.

*How might God be calling you to unplug in this season
 in order to more fully embody the love of Jesus?
 Take this quiet time to consider the ways.*

Assurance of Grace

Friends, hear the good news ~
Even when it seems we're plugged into anything but God,
God is plugged into our hearts,
knowing our fears and longings,
ready and waiting to receive us just as we are.
In Jesus Christ we are embraced and forgiven, by the grace of God.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Children's Message

Jenny Healy

*The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Children and youth may meet in Fellowship Hall
for Church School or "Not" Church School.

Musical Response

'Tis the Gift to Be Simple

SIMPLE GIFTS

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, and when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight. When true simplicity is gained to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed, to turn, turn, will be our delight till by turning, turning we come round right.

We Receive God's Word

Scripture

Mark 1:9-15

Sermon

Lent Unplugged: Stress Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Gifford

Anthem

I Will Be That Peace

Mark Hayes

We Respond to God's Love

Prayers of the People

Gwen Morgan

Prayer Response

In This Time

SIVIS

*In this time of quiet rev'rence, God, fill us now with everlasting peace,
and may each and ev'ry day we live bring true faith in your abiding love.*

Call to Offering

Please sign and pass the Red Book (in aisle seats) so we can greet each other by name.
If you are with us for the first time, please add your contact information.
You may also join our mailing list by texting Uccnorwell to 228-28.

Offertory

Come and Find the Quiet Center
Karen Harvey, piano

Arr. Craig Curry

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

TALLIS' CANON

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all creatures here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; one God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

We Depart to Serve

*Hymn #560

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

SHOWALTER

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Gifford

Postlude

Take the Name of Jesus with You
Karen Harvey, organ

PRECIOUS NAME;
Arr. Rick Parks

* Please stand, as you are able

Additional Ways to Give

Give by text, text the amount you wish to give to 844-738-0029.
Give online by scanning the QR code at right.

