



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](http://www.uccnorwell.org) | email: [office@uccnorwell.org](mailto:office@uccnorwell.org)

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



# United Church of Christ Norwell

*An Open and Affirming Church*

February 25, 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 #588 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* BRADBURY

Prayer of Confession (unison) Betsy Brink

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

*O, How I Love Jesus* Traditional melody  
*O, how I love Jesus (3x), because He first loved me!*

*We Receive God's Word*

Scripture

Mark 8:31-38

Sermon

*Lent Unplugged: Expectations* Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Gifford

Anthem

*Change My Heart, O God* Eddie Espinosa  
Chorus: Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You.  
Verse: You are the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me;  
This is what I pray.

*We Respond to God's Love*

Prayers of the People

Betsy Brink

Prayer Response

*Surely the Presence of the Lord*  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.  
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;  
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Lanny Wolfe

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

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Doris Akers

\*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 #577

*Nearer, My God, to Thee* v. 1, 4, 5

BETHANY

\*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Gifford

Postlude

*Grand Epilogue*  
Karen Harvey, organ

Edward Broughton

\* 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.

