

**For God's
foolishness
is wiser
than
human
wisdom,**

**and God's
weakness
is stronger
than
human
strength.**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:25, NRSV

Sudbury United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2017

Before worship, please feel free to greet those around you. Concerns or celebrations to be included in today's prayers may be recorded on cards in the pew pockets and passed to the ushers during the second hymn. During the prelude, let us prepare silently to worship God.

**indicates worshipers may stand, as they are able*

Welcome

Hymn Sing

***Call to Worship:** (*Psalm 15:1b, 2a NRSV, alt.*)

Liturgist: LORD, who shall abide in your tent?

People: Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right.

***Opening Hymn:** FWS # 2230 – “Lord, We Come to Ask Your Blessing”

***Opening Prayer:** (*Consultation on Common Texts, USA, 21st century*)

God our deliverer,

**you walk with the meek and the poor,
the compassionate and those who mourn,
and you call us to walk humbly with you.**

**When we are foolish, be our wisdom;
when we are weak, be our strength;
that, as we learn to do justice and love mercy,
your rule may come as blessing. Amen.**

***A Reading from the Gospels:** Matthew 5:1-12

This reading is found on page 4 in the New Testament.

Children's Time: “A Sermon of Surprises”

Special Music: “Blest Are They”

David Haas

A Reading from the Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

This reading is found on page 166 in the New Testament.

Sermon: “More Than One Way to Outwit the Wise”

Pastor Joel Guillemette

***Hymns of Response:** UMH # 296 – “Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle”

A Time of Fellowship

Greeting Our Guests

Concerns and Celebrations

The Pastoral Prayer

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, forever. Amen.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Stewardship Moment

Offertory: “Prayer to Jesus”

R. Rolle & G. Oldroyd

***Doxology:** UMH # 94 – “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Hymn of Commitment:** UMH # 504 – “The Old Rugged Cross”

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude: “Prelude & Fugue in g”

D. Buxtehude

Reconciling & Welcoming Statement: The United Methodist Church is a community of believers and seekers, with differences in age, class, nationality, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, abilities, and limitations. We at SUMC recognize that there are attitudes, concerning these diverse characteristics, which violate the integrity of individuals and deny the richness of God's creation. Therefore we affirm our welcome to all people into our community of faith. We are committed to be a fellowship in which all persons feel a part of our family, enabling them to grow in their faith, to be fed by our fellowship, and to contribute their talents to the life of the church in its worship, programs, and outreach. We call the church and society to be sensitive to all persons and to advocate programs which attempt to ensure justice for all.

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We are a Stephen Ministry
Congregation



We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation

Sudbury United Methodist Church

January 29, 2017

Welcome, Guests!

Are you visiting today? Please accept our sincere welcome. After worship, please linger in the narthex during the postlude to meet the pastor and some of our church's leaders. We also invite you to join us, as time permits, for informal fellowship and coffee after this morning's service. We hope you enjoy your visit and invite you to come again soon!

Confirmation Journey Starts Today

After worship concludes today, Pastor Joel will meet with 9th and 10th grade teens, their parents, and the adult mentors who have accepted an invitation to be part of the 2017 Confirmation journey. For several years, confirmands and their mentors have focused on strengthening the spiritual practice that most Christians rely on most of all through-out their lives: attending Sunday services of worship and reflecting on what is said and done during each week's hymns, prayers, and sermon. When you see a teen and adult pair talking quietly in the church after worship during the coming months, remember that they are helping each other to become intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. To this core goal, Pastor Joel also adds three classes on United Methodist history, theology, and polity. Finally, our teens will spend at least one day together in community service and may also attend worship at a synagogue, a mosque, or both. The Rite of Confirmation will take place on June 4. Questions? Please contact pastorjoel@sudbury-umc.org.

Winter Book Study Begins Tomorrow Night

Have you ever wondered if everyone goes to heaven, if there is a place called Hell, or if God's love saves all? To explore these questions, Pastor Joel will dig into *Love Wins* by Rob Bell. The first class begins at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 30, in the O'Reilly Gathering Room. But wait! Is nighttime driving a challenge for you? For the first time, a Sudbury UMC class will go "live" on Facebook, allowing you to participate at home or to catch up later. The concluding sessions of "Love Wins" will take place on February 13 and 27 at 7:00 p.m. Books may be ordered from www.cokesbury.com or amazon.com.

Super Bowl Bake Sale

Why bake when you can donate? After worship on Sunday, February 5, the youth group will offer Super Bowl treats for sale! Pick up a sweet or savory snack for the big game! All donations will benefit the youths' service trip this summer. Go Pats!!

Is There Child Care During Worship?

Infants and toddlers are welcome in worship. Parents with young children may also visit our Family Room with visual and aural access to the sanctuary. Each Sunday, a pair of CORI-ed volunteers cares for children two years old and younger. Look for the stairs in the northwest corner of the narthex leading up to a cozy room furnished with sofas and toys and books.

Hearing Assistance Available

Individual hearing assistance units are available. An usher will help you to borrow one.

Large Print Worship Books

Do you prefer large print materials? Special copies of *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing* are available in the narthex. Please speak to an usher for assistance.

Where Is the Rest Room?

A unisex rest room is located in the southeast corner of the narthex, behind the back row of pews on the pulpit side of the sanctuary. Another rest room can be found just past the side door of the sanctuary closest to the pulpit and three steps up.

Help Refill the Food Cart

The contents of the shopping cart near the O'Reilly Room entrance are delivered to food banks in Sudbury, Stow, Marlborough, Maynard, Wayland, and Hudson. The Outreach Commission is grateful for your donations. Canned vegetables and soups, canned tuna and meat, crackers, jams, jellies, canned pastas and tomato sauces, noodles, rice, cereals, and baby foods are always needed. Donations past the expiration date stamped on the package must be discarded.

Do You Need a Listening Ear?

Stephen Ministers can provide a listening, supportive and confidential presence. Each Sunday after worship concludes a Stephen Minister is available to listen and to pray with you in the O'Reilly Room. If you would like a Stephen Minister to "walk" with you on a regular basis, please contact Pastor Joel. Remember, no concern is too big or too small to share with a Stephen Minister.

Please Recycle This Bulletin

The Worship and Music Commission has placed blue recycle bins near the sanctuary's entrances. Please recycle the materials distributed on Sundays either here or at home.

Read for Spiritual Growth

Want to read for spiritual growth? Ten minutes each day with *The Upper Room* can lead to a growth spurt! Free booklets are available in the narthex. Please help yourself! Or check out <http://devotional.upperroom.org> to visit *The Upper Room* each day online.

Are You Looking for a Mid-Week Bible Study?

Please join Sudbury UMC's Thursday Bible study group. Each week's focus text is next Sunday's preaching passage. Thursday meetings take place at 10:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, 21 Andrew Avenue in Wayland's Town Center. Bring your Bible and a few bucks for something warm to sip.

A Note from the Stewardship and Finance Committee

When making a gift of stock, please notify the church office in advance, listing your name, the name of the stock donated, the approximate number of shares, the dollar amount, and where to direct your donation. Thank you to all who have contributed. This allows us to ensure that all contributions are used as donors intend and that all donors receive correct year-end statements.

Lenten Booklet Sign-up

Are you willing to contribute a devotion to the 2017 Lenten Booklet? Sign up today after worship. You will find a sign-up display and an easy to follow instruction sheet in the narthex. The deadline for submission is February 15th. Please prayerfully consider adding your devotion to this year's booklet.

Dunifon Memorial Service

Gene Dunifon, father of Linda McInerney and Wayne Dunifon, will be remembered in worship at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 4, at Sudbury UMC. A collation will follow.

Join a Social Justice Book Group

This winter, the members of the Social Justice Commission invite you to join them as they read and discuss fiction and non-fiction literature dealing with critical social justice issues. Last week's reading of *America's Original Sin* by Jim Wallis was postponed due to icy road conditions. A make-up date will be announced. A conversation about Colin Whitehead's novel, *The Underground Railroad*, will follow at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 20. Both Book Groups will meet at 22 Summer Street in Sudbury, the home of Moira and Leon Lataille. Should you have any questions, please call Moira at 978-443-2568. Walk-ins are welcome! And, remember, we are always looking for future book recommendations.

Can You Count to Four?

Good news! If you can count to four and tap your foot in a steady rhythm, you are qualified to become a member of a new music-making group. Choir chime rehearsals will start today following worship, at approximately 11:00 a.m. in the Choir Room. Come and enjoy working with a joyous team of new and experienced ringers. All are welcome – from fifth grade to fifty to one hundred and fifty! If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Stonebraker at 978-568-1596 or at sstoneb@aol.com.

It's Almost Time to Fill Vacation Lunch Bags

What happens when children who rely on the lunch provided by their school's cafeteria are on vacation? For many it's a long and hungry week. Want to help? The Outreach Commission invites all kids and "Kids at Heart" to fill and decorate one hundred school lunch bags immediately after worship concludes on Sunday, February 12. Our "Kids Bags" will be delivered to the Open Table Food Pantry in Maynard to be distributed to neighbors whose children will be home during the February school vacation week. The 2017 lunch-bag-bee marks Sudbury UMC's third year taking part in this community outreach opportunity!

What's Happening Today in Church School?

There are regular Sunday School groupings today. After the children's moment early in worship, the 3 to 5-year-old class will meet in their classroom, preschool room 4 and 3rd through 5th grade will meet in room 5 of the Sunny Hill Wing. First and 2nd grade and 6th through 8th grade will meet in their classrooms below the sanctuary. Sunday School teachers urge the parents of young children to meet them in their classrooms after worship concludes.

Praying for Our Teens!

Since Friday, Sudbury UMC's Youth Group has been participating in a winter retreat at Camp Berea in Hebron, New Hampshire. They return to Sudbury UMC later today. Let's keep praying for our church's youth—that this retreat will be used by God to strengthen their faith, reinforce their relationship with Christ, and deepen their fellowship with the Spirit. And let's pray for safe travel as they drive home today.

New Liturgists Trained

Last Sunday, Pastor Joel and Leslie Bell offered a training session for new and returning liturgists. Eight participants volunteered to give their time and talent as worship leaders and scripture readers: Chase Benson, Heather Josselyn-Cranson, Margery Condon, John McKinney, Betsey Field, Jennifer Helgeson, Sherry Stonebraker and Jill Gaudet. Beginning February 5, these newly trained liturgists will be added to the rotation.