



The *Lord*
IS MY *Shepherd*
Psalms 23

Sudbury United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 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

***Opening Sentences:** (*The United Methodist Book of Worship, USA, 1992*)

Liturgist: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life,
and include these persons now before you in your care?

**People: With God's help, we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround these persons
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that they may grow in their service to others.**

**We will pray for them,
that they may be true disciples
who walk in the way that leads to life.**

***A Reading from the Gospels:** John 9:1-16, 30-38

This reading is found on pages 102-103 in the New Testament.

***Opening Hymn:** FWS # 2218 – “You Are Mine”

***Prayer of Confession:** (*Taylor Burton-Edwards, USA, 21st cent., alt.*)

**Proclaiming the good news of your kingdom, LORD God,
we watch for the signs of your reign that we can already see
and we pray that your saving power will fill the whole earth.**

**Seeking to live by your example, compassionate Christ,
we seek the healing of our own blindness
and we pray for all who work to sustain and protect human lives.**

**Surrounding each other with a community of love and forgiveness,
we pray that all in our fellowship may walk with the Holy Spirit
in the way that leads to life.**

Receive the prayers of your people, Holy Trinity.

**In your compassion, forgive our sins,
and drive us to lives of faithful service
in, through, and beyond the nurture you offer in your church. Amen.**

Children's Time: "God's Plan"

Special Music: "Psalm 23"

Kuumba Singers

A Reading from the Scriptures: Psalm 23

This reading is found on pages 501 in the Old Testament.

Sermon: "After You Jump Through the Hoops"

The Rev. Joel B. Guillemette

***Hymn of Response:** UMH # 136 – "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

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: "On Eagles' Wings"

Joncas/Ferguson

***Doxology:** FWS # 2251 – "We Were Baptized in Christ" (*verse 3*)

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,

glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one:

as it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again

in a song that has no ending. Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Hymn of Commitment:** UMH # 128 – "He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought"

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude: Improvisation

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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Church Staff

Lead Pastor: *The Rev. Joel Guillemette*
Business Manager: *Michael Greb*
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Communications Coordinator: *Alexandra Plotkin*
Interim Youth Director: *Anthony Harrison*
Music Director/Organist: *Kevin Murphy, AAGO*
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We are a Stephen Ministry
Congregation



We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation

Sudbury United Methodist Church

March 26, 2017

Lent 4: Nurture

Welcome, Guests!

Are you visiting today? Please accept our sincere welcome. If you can take a few moments after worship, please linger in the narthex to meet our pastor and some of our church's leaders. We also invite you, as time permits, for coffee and conversation in the fellowship hall on the south end of our facility. We hope you enjoy your visit and invite you to come again soon!

Today Is "One Great Hour of Sharing"

Today, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, United Methodists around the world are participating in a special offering to fund the administrative functions of The United Methodist Committee on Relief. The goal of "One Great Hour of Sharing" (now known as UMCOR Sunday) is covering UMCOR's "costs of doing business" so that 100% of donations given when disasters strike can be invested in alleviating human suffering. Please give as generously as you can during today's special offering.

Did You Sign Up for the Interfaith Book Club?

This afternoon, the Islamic Center of Boston, located at 126 Boston Post Road in Wayland, will host a discussion of *The Faith Club*, a book featuring three women, a Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew, and their search for interfaith understanding. The group will meet from 3:00 till 5:00 p.m. at the mosque. To sign-up as a member of Sudbury UMC's delegation, please contact Linda Lombardo, who chairs the Social Justice Commission.

Church Council Meets Today Following Worship

March's regularly scheduled Church Council meeting was delayed by a snowstorm. To stay on track, Council members will meet briefly today, after worship, to vote a budget for 2017 and to prepare for a special Sunday coffee hour this spring featuring displays created by our church's commissions and committees to interpret their work.

Would You Like to See History in the Making?

Bishop Karen Oliveto, the first openly gay bishop elected by a United Methodist Jurisdiction, will preach today at 7:00 p.m. at the Old West Church, 131 Cambridge Street, in Boston. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/716016321892495/?ti=icl> for details, including directions and parking.

"Will you nurture these persons in Christ's holy church?"

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 kids age two and younger. Stairs in the northwest corner of the narthex lead up to a cozy room furnished with sofas, toys, and books.

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. There is another rest room just past the side door of the sanctuary closest to the pulpit and three steps up.

Do You Need Hearing Assistance?

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

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.

Can You 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, cereals, canned pastas and tomato sauces, noodles, rice, 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 offer 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 are facing a transition and would like to meet with a Stephen Minister weekly, please contact Pastor Joel. No concern is too big or too small.

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. Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, 21 Andrew Avenue in Wayland's Town Center. Bring a Bible and a few dollars for something to sip.

Please Recycle Your Bulletin

Leaving your bulletin here? Use the blue bins near the sanctuary entrances to recycle it.

"Will you nurture these persons in Christ's holy church?"

Join the Women's Fellowship This Tuesday, March 28th

On March 28 at 10:30 a.m., the women of our church will gather in the sanctuary to clean the chandeliers. Each glass globe must be removed, washed, and returned to its place. And it all happens without ladders! Come and see the miracle of the lights! After the chandeliers have been cleaned for another year, the crew will go out for lunch. All are invited to join in the fun. Please bring cleaning supplies.

Director of Christian Education and Youth Director – A New Search Begins

In the March 16 edition of The Chronicle, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee posted a pair of want ads for two positions: Director of Christian Education and Director of Youth Ministries (<http://sudbury-umc.org/documents/Chronicle/03162017Chronicle.pdf>). Do you know someone whose recent employment and skills might qualify her or him for one or both of these roles? Please encourage them to apply. Interviews will begin as soon as qualified applicants are available. And please pray for our search committee's members as they do their important work.

Praying Together during Lent

Please pick up a copy of Sudbury UMC's Lenten Devotional Booklet so that you can join our congregation in praying together throughout the season of Lent. With a passage from scripture, a one-page meditation, and a daily prayer for each day until Easter, the booklet helps us to pray as a community as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection. Booklets are available in the narthex, at the Sunny Hill desk, and in the church office.

Give the Gift of Music during Lent

Would you like to help with our church's musical programming in Lent? Preparations for the Tenebrae service on Wednesday, April 12, continue through April 5. Rehearsals take place at 7:30 p.m. after each Wednesday's Lenten supper and programs. Everyone is invited to learn the music and to prepare the passages for our Tenebrae observance. Please contact music director Kevin Murphy at kevin@sudbury-umc.org or choral director Rob Hammerton at rob@sudbury-umc.org to offer your musical gifts.

GAME Time Coming Soon

Plan ahead! Late Sunday afternoon, April 2nd, we'll have tables set up in Hawes Hall. All Ages Are Invited! All game-players and games are welcome, from "Candyland" to "The Settlers of Catan." The Church Growth Commission promises everyone a good time. It's going to be fun. And, there will be pizza, too! More details next week.

"Will you nurture these persons in Christ's holy church?"

Please Help Decorate the Church for Easter

This week's bulletin materials include an order form for plants to decorate the Sanctuary and Chapel on Easter morning. You can choose from Easter Lilies, Tulips, Hydrangeas, Spring Bulbs or Boston Ferns; or you can let the Flower Committee choose for you. All details can be found in the order form.

Our Lenten Journey Continues

Are you yearning for a meaningful Easter? Participating in Sudbury UMC's Lenten Soup and Study Series will help. On Wednesdays in Lent at 6:00 p.m. – through April 5 – we will share a simple meal of assorted soups and breads in Hawes Hall. Helpers are always needed to make soup, set-up tables, and clean-up after supper. Look for Oscar Harrell after worship to sign-up for this fulfilling ministry! After supper, at 6:30 p.m., several opportunities to learn and worship are being offered for adults, teens and children. This year's focus is "Living Our Baptismal Calling." At the beginning of each Sunday's service of worship, a weekly theme from the UMC's baptismal vows will be introduced. Our programs on Wednesday evenings offer extra time to prepare for Easter Sunday's 9:30 a.m. service of Baptismal Reaffirmation.

- Adult Worship (chancel) – "Singing our Baptism" led by Heather Josselyn-Cranson, Kevin Murphy and Rob Hammerton
- Adult Study (choir room) – "By Water and the Spirit – Making Connections for Identity and Ministry" led by Pastor Joel and John McKinney
- Children's Study (undercroft) – "I Wonder about Baptism" led by Jackie Roder, Director of Christian Education
- Youth Study (undercroft) – "Baptism: God's Gift to Us All" led by Anthony Harrison, Director of Youth Ministries

Lenten Themes Posted Daily on FaceBook

Notice the footer of this insert. Each Sunday in Lent, it will change to reflect the week's focus. And, every day we are posting the daily scripture reading from Sudbury UMC's Lenten Booklet on our FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SudburyUMC/>.

A Preview of Holy Week Worship Services

- April 12, 7:00 p.m.: Wednesday Worship: The Psalms of Holy Week
- April 13, 7:00 p.m.: Maundy Thursday Service: Foot Washing & Communion
- April 14, 7:00 p.m.: Good Friday Service: Scripture, Images, & Holy Week Hymns

"Will you nurture these persons in Christ's holy church?"