



the poor in spirit

the meek

those who mourn

those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

Blessed are...

the pure in heart

the merciful

the peacemakers

those who

are persecuted

Matthew 5:3-10

SUDBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 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 worshippers may stand, as they are able*

Welcome

Prelude: Improvisation

***Call to Worship:** *(Nathan Decker, USA, 21st cent., alt.)*

Liturgist: In times like these, O God, you have always raised up saints and prophets.

People: Moses, in the desert for the captives in Egypt.

Liturgist: Jeremiah, in the midst of Jerusalem's fall.

People: Martin Luther, when the Word of God was chained.

Liturgist: John Wesley, bringing holy light to coal miners' darkness.

People: Martin Luther King Jr., dreaming dreams of freedom and justice.

Liturgist: In times like these, O God, you have always raised up saints and prophets.

People: Do it again, Lord. Do it again.

Let your saints and prophets once more be heard in the land.

***Opening Hymn:** UMH # 436 - "The Voice of God Is Calling"

***Opening Prayer:** *(Nathan Decker, USA, 21st cent., alt.)*

Great Promise Maker and Promise Keeper:

You showed Moses a vision of a land of milk and honey,

and strengthened Joshua to lead Israel from captivity to building a nation.

Pour out your Spirit on us and bring forth your reign today.

May the sweetness of Christ's blessings stick to us like honey.

May the milk of Christ's nurturing voice comfort us beyond our fears.

May the touch of your hands compel your saints to build your reign.

May your reforming fire urge your prophets to action instead of reaction.

Pour out your Spirit on your people today

that the world may reach higher for the reality of what shall be

instead of living in the broken shadow of what is;

through the enlightening Creator, shining Savior, and burning Spirit. Amen.

A Reading from the Scriptures: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

This reading is found on pages 191-192 in the Old Testament.

Children's Time: “Badger’s Parting Gifts”

Special Music: “Living for Jesus”

T. Chisolm & C. H. Lowden

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

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

Sermon: “Backward Blessings”

Pastor Joel Guillemette

***Hymn of Response:** FWS # 2155 – “Blest Are They”

Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant: UMH page 50

A Time of Fellowship

Greeting Our Guests

Concerns and Celebrations

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: “For All the Saints”

R. Vaughan Williams

***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:** FWS # 2158 – “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude: “Toccat & Fugue in d minor” BWV 565

J. S. Bach

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.

Sudbury United Methodist Church

Phones: (978) 443-4351 or (978) 443-6785

Church Office: sumc@sudbury-umc.org

251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

Fax: (978) 443-3052

Website: <http://www.sudbury-umc.org>

Church Staff

Lead Pastor: *The Rev. Joel Guillemette*

Business Manager: *Michael Greb*

Christian Education Director: *Eric Magnuson*

Director of Youth Ministries: *Zachary Moser*

Music Director/Organist: *Kevin Murphy, AAGO*

Sanctuary Choir Director: *Rob Hammerton*

Office Administrator: *Shetal Kaye*

Sextons: *Joe Picorelli*

Phil Lenentine

pastorjoel@sudbury-umc.org

michael@sudbury-umc.org

eric@sudbury-umc.org

zack@sudbury-umc.org

kevin@sudbury-umc.org

rob@sudbury-umc.org

sumc@sudbury-umc.org

joe@sudbury-umc.org



We are a Stephen Ministry
Congregation



We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation

Sudbury United Methodist Church

October 29, 2017

Welcome, Guests!

Are you visiting Sudbury UMC today? Welcome! If you have time after worship, please pause in the narthex to meet our pastor and a few of our church's leaders. If a longer visit is possible, enjoy coffee and conversation in Hawes Hall, just past The Columns, on the south end of our facility. We hope you enjoy your visit and invite you to come back soon!

Does Reaffirming Baptism Mean Being "Re-baptized"?

Today's service of worship celebrates Holy Baptism as the usual way in which God begins the process of making saints from sinners. God's prevenient grace "comes before" conversion, giving sinners the will and the way to begin a relationship with Christ. God's justifying grace aligns us with Christ in a baptismal death and resurrection like his. God's sanctifying grace leads us on to perfection, making us saints conformed to the image of Christ. Though God's commitment to this process never wavers or fails, our faithfulness comes and goes. As Gail Carlton Felton wrote in *By Water and the Spirit*, "Our faithful response to God is not a once-and-for-all event. Throughout our lives, our relationship with God will change—sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worst. Therefore there will be numerous occasions when it is appropriate to reaffirm our baptismal vows. Such occasions will include times when we need to repent for a violation of the covenant and recommit ourselves to the covenant. Other times might be at points in our lives when we have experienced God's activity in new ways and desire to express our response. People who request "re-baptism" often do so because the church has had no other way for them to celebrate their significant spiritual experiences. If pastors and teachers will conscientiously lead their people into understanding the baptismal covenant and offer other meaningful opportunities for renewal and rededication, such requests will largely disappear." Since we have no candidates for Baptism today, as we enter the week of All Saints Day, let us approach the baptismal font as the Spirit leads us to reaffirm the baptismal covenant that God has made with us and to rejoice in its power.

Trustees' Fall Clean-Up on November 11

It's fall clean-up time again and the Trustees will need your help. We're looking for volunteers of all ages at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 11. The more the merrier and the faster our task will get done. Most of the work will involve collecting and moving fallen leaves, but we will also be cleaning some of the garden areas and trimming trees, as well as tackling other tasks. Bring rakes and tarps. Wear work gloves. Other useful tools are leaf blowers and wheelbarrows. Please come even if you only have an hour or two to spare. Free coffee and donuts will be available. Meet church friends. Enjoy some exercise. Help our 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 children's 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.

If Our Shopping Cart Could Talk

For several months, food donations made to the shopping cart outside the O'Reilly Room have been delivered to our Maynard partners' facility located in the basement of the former Coolidge School on Bancroft Street. If the shopping cart could talk, it would politely say, "Thanks!" to all who visit. It might remind you to say, "Hello!" to volunteers from Sudbury UMC who join others to stock shelves on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Or, it might drop hints to passersby like, "Don't be a stranger!" and "I always need solid white tuna in cans, spaghetti sauce in jars, mixed vegetables in cans, pineapple in cans, raisins, dried beans in bags, bread crumbs, condensed milk, rice pilaf, instant coffee, and BBQ sauce."

What Your Name Tag Says About You

In addition to your name, your nametag also says you enjoy sharing yourself with others and making new friends. It tells our church's newest staff members that you understand the challenge of learning the names of a whole congregation in a short time. And it tells Sunday morning guests that you are happy to answer questions or introduce them to others who can. Thank you for wearing your nametag!

Sudbury UMC Is a Nut Free Zone!

Several Sunny Hill preschoolers and staff members have dangerous allergies to nut products and coconut oil. Do not bring food products or soaps containing tree nuts into the church and remember that coconut oil in kitchen cleaners and lotions can be lethal. Thank you!

Please Recycle This Bulletin

The Worship and Music Commission has placed blue recycle bins near the church's three entrances. Materials not needed at home, along with other clean papers, may be recycled in these bins. Please dispose of paper soiled by food or anything else in wastebaskets.

Two Months until Christmas – Sign-Up for the Pageant!



The shopping mall's race to Christmas morning always catches us by surprise. "Are you kidding? Christmas trees in the store before Halloween?" But preparing slowly and thoughtfully for Christmas also requires lots of lead time. In just two months, believe it or not, Christmas will be here, and in one month, the first rehearsal of the children's Christmas pageant will take place. Please contact Kristin Murphy [Kbando@earthlink.net] or Eric Magnuson [eric@sudbury-umc.org] for information and a "Pageant Registration" form.

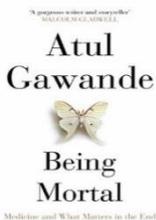
Grand-Friends and Prayer Pals – Say Your Prayers!

The key word for Week 8 October 29 – November 4 is Favor: "May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us" (Psalm 90:17).

Parents, Sign Up for a GroupMe Text Message Each Week

Do your kids ever tell you nothing happened in Church School? Is starting a conversation with them about each Sunday's lesson "like pulling teeth"? Consider *GroupMe* – a weekly text message with the overall theme, Bible verse, and question to think about and talk to your children about for preschool through Grade 5. Whether it is just clarity of information, or whether you need to be away for a Sunday and want to stay connected, consider *Group Me*. Just give your cell phone number to Eric Magnuson, our Director of Christian Education. Your cell number will only be used for GroupMe texts about Sunday School. Promise!

Health Ministries Commission Launching Book Discussion



The Health Ministries Commission is about to launch a new book discussion series. The program will start with *Being Mortal*, by Atul Gawande, who asks how medicine can improve not only life but also the process that inevitably leads to mortality and natural death. Other titles of interest for future reading will be on discussed at a later date. Please contact Kay D'Orlando to learn more and to sign up: kjdorlando@comcast.net.

New a Cappella Chorus Sings Each Wednesday

Sudbury UMC's a cappella chorus meets for one hour on Wednesdays, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., through November 8. A cappella groups typically work without printed music, so you do not need to read music to participate. A light supper and childcare are offered. Our only request is that you sign up by going to http://sudbury-umc.org/sumc_v1/music/a_cappella/

Read for Spiritual Growth

Ten minutes each day with *The Upper Room* can cause a growth spurt! Monthly booklets are available in the narthex or visit *The Upper Room* online at <http://devotional.upperroom.org/>.

Magic Years to Welcome Spaulding Rehab Chaplain

Join Sudbury UMC's retirees on Thursday, November 9, from noon till 2:00 p.m. in Davison Chapel for our next Magic Years luncheon! Our speaker this month will be Karen Lubic, a member of our church who also serves as a chaplain at Boston's Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. To take part in Karen's presentation, "Home for the Holidays," please bring a photo taken during the holidays, a holiday recipe, a favorite holiday decoration, or a story to share. Contact Eric Magnuson at 978-443-4351 (ext. 207), or eric@sudbury-umc.org to RSVP.

Senior High Bible Study Follows Worship

During coffee hour after worship today, high school students are invited to meet with Zack Moser in Davison Chapel for Bible study. We'll look back at the morning's scripture passage and talk through any questions or ideas we might have about it. We might also need to figure out what else to call our hanging out time, because the only two ideas that Zack has are "High School Bible Study" and "We Have Donuts." By the way, we have donuts!

Sunny Hill Pre-School Invites You to Tour!



Sunny Hill, Sudbury UMC's pre-school, is now enrolling 3 and 4 year olds. Sunny Hill's philosophy integrates academic learning through purposeful play. With developmentally appropriate curriculum for children ages 2.9 through 5 years of age, our teachers ignite children's passion for lifelong learning. We offer programs for 2.9 to 5 years of age including a Stay, Play and Learn option! To schedule a tour, call 978-443-2627.

Antarctic Slide Show at Women's Fellowship

The fall meeting of the Women's Fellowship will begin on Monday, October 30, at 7:00 p.m. in Hawes Hall. We will start with refreshments followed by a presentation of Bob Cooke's slides from a recent trip to Antarctica and the scientific research that is being conducted all around the ice cap. Men are welcome to attend this program.

Tis the Season when Friends and Neighbors May Need Care

Countless people have received confidential care from Sudbury UMC's Stephen Ministers, a program of our church that is now 25 years old. As winter's dark days inch closer, even the holidays can trigger loneliness, sadness, or anxiety. This is especially true if a loved one has suffered a loss, a sudden change, or a difficult transition. Maybe you know a family member, a friend, or a neighbor who could benefit from a caring relationship. Sudbury UMC has 13 active Stephen Ministers and 10 are available to offer support. To see a video describing the care people have received from Stephen Ministers, visit <https://www.stephenministries.org/>. To ask about starting a relationship, speak to Pastor Joel, Lori Granger, or Richard Smith. And, remember, every Sunday morning a Stephen Minister is available after the worship service in the O'Reilly room to listen and to pray with you. Today's volunteer is Eric Lind.