

"HOW CAN I
[UNDERSTAND],
UNLESS SOMEONE
GUIDES ME?"

Acts 8:31, NRSV



Sudbury United Methodist Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

**indicates worshipers may stand in body or spirit*

Welcome

Prelude: “Largo” & “Allegro” from “Sonata in d” op. 5, no. 8

Arcangelo Corelli

***Call to Worship:** *(written by Leigh Goodrich)*

Leader: We are all part of one another,

Many: United in love by God.

Leader: Our common humanity connects us.

Many: United in love by Christ.

Leader: We need each other,

Many: Even as the Spirit unites us in love.

ALL: AMEN.

Hymn of Praise: TFWS # 2236 – “Gather Us In”

Gather Us In



1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing,
 2. We are the young — our lives are a mys-t'ry,
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter,
 4. Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing,



now is the dark-ness van-ish-ed a-way,
 we are the old — who yearn for your face,
 here we will take the bread of new birth,
 not in some heav-en, light-years a-way, but



see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
 here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day. —
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race. —
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth. —
 now is the King-dom, now is the day. —



Gath-er us in — the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in — the
 Gath-er us in — the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in — the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low-ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in — all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. _____
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song. _____
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. _____
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone. _____

***Opening Prayer:** *(written by Mary Scifres)*

Loving God, send your Spirit among us now.
 Bind us to you in love this day,
 that we may worship in unity and friendship.
 Bind us to you in love this hour,
 that we may be strengthened to bring abundant love to your world.
 In love and gratitude, we pray. AMEN.

Passing the Peace of Christ

***A Reading from the Gospels:** John 15:1-8

This reading can be found on page 109 in the New Testament section of the pew Bibles.

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Children’s Time

Special Music: “In This Very Room”

Harris/Harris/Waldrop

Reading from the Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

This reading can be found on page 127 in the New Testament section of the pew Bibles.

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

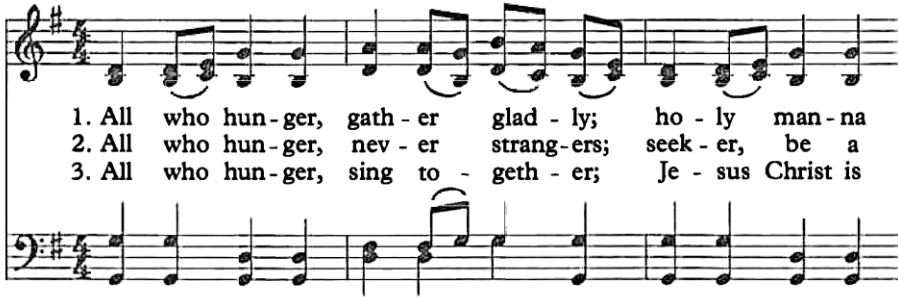
³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip ^[c] baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Sermon: “The Reality of Spirituality.”


Pastor Zack Moser

Hymn: TFWS # 2126 – “All Who Hunger”

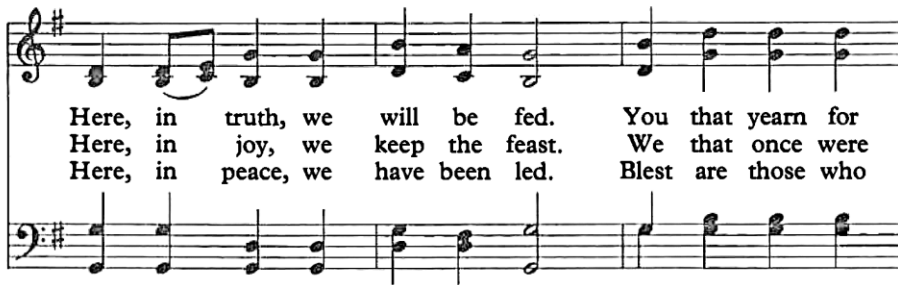
All Who Hunger



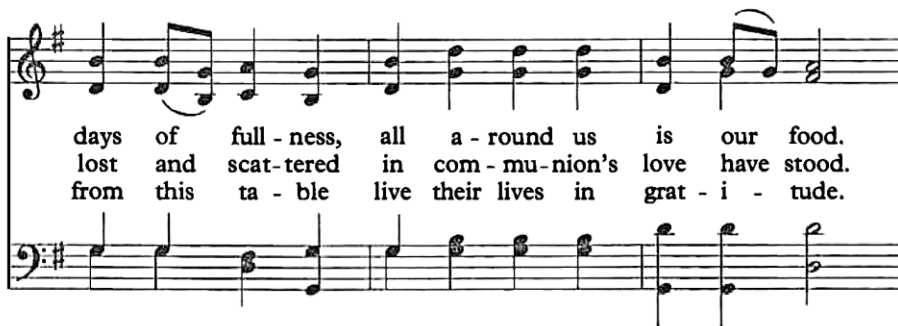
1. All who hun-ger, gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na
 2. All who hun-ger, nev - er strang - ers; seek - er, be a
 3. All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is



is our bread. Come from wil - der - ness and wan - dering.
 wel - come guest. Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing.
 liv - ing bread. Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing.



Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for
 Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were
 Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who



days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
 from this ta - ble live their lives in grat - i - tude.

WORDS: Sylvia G. Dunstan (Exod. 16:13-15; Ps. 34:8; John 4:10; 1 Cor. 5:8)
 MUSIC: William Moore

HOLY MANNA
 87.87 D



Prayer Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

(Jesus used the prayer we know as "The Lord's Prayer" to teach us how to pray. The words printed here are from Matthew 6:9-13, however we encourage you to pray this prayer in language you find most comfortable and meaningful.)

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Stewardship Moment: Yard Sale

Jen O'Sullivan

Offertory Anthem: "Hold Out Your Light" (livestream muted) Spirit., arr. Moses Hogan

***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!

Offertory Blessing

Hymn of Commitment: UMH # 605 – "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"

605 Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

1. Wash, O God, our sons and daugh - ters, where your cleans - ing
 2. We who bring them long for nur - ture; by your milk may
 3. O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - im - ag - ined,

wa - ters flow. Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple;
 we be fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing
 all your ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or!

bless as Christ blessed long a - go. Weave them gar - ments bright and
 cup of bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re - new us, guide our
 With our lives we worship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -

spark - ling; com - pass them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them;
 foot - steps; free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in
 fore you, wa - ter - washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our

send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
 liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
 lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1987 (Jn. 3:3-8)

MUSIC: Attr. to B. F. White, 1844; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson, 1978

BEACH SPRING
87.87 D

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude: “Sarabande” & “Giga” from “Sonata in d” op. 5, no. 8 Arcangelo Corelli

This morning’s liturgist is Ann Hamilton.

(Sudbury United Methodist Church enjoys a vibrant and gifted tradition of worship and praise to our Creator. If you wish to leave worship early, you are welcome to do so in a quiet and reverent manner.)

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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

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251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

Fax: (978) 443-3052

Wi-Fi Passwords: SUMC = sumc2020! or SUMC_Guest = guest2020

Church Staff

Pastor: *Leigh E. Goodrich*

(Pastor Leigh observes sabbath on Friday)

Youth & Children's Ministries Director: *Zachary Moser*

(Pastor Zack observes sabbath on Wednesday)

Music Director/Organist: *Kevin Murphy, AAGO*

Sanctuary Choir Director: *Rob Hammerton*

Business Manager: *Michael Greb*

Sunny Hill Preschool Director: *Kathy Palmer*

Office Administrator: *Shetal Kaye*

Sexton: *Joe Picorelli*

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We are a Reconciling and Welcoming Congregation



If you would like to make a donation to Sudbury United Methodist Church, please use the QR code above.

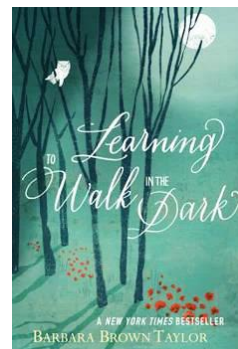
Sudbury United Methodist Church
April 28, 2024

Welcome, Guests!

Whether you are visiting Sudbury UMC's Sunday worship services in our sanctuary or via our live-streamed or video-recorded options, we welcome you! We invite you to celebrate with us the hope God has given the world through Jesus Christ. The nursery above the sanctuary is open for families with children who would like to be able to see and hear the service, while allowing the children to roam and play in a safe kid-friendly room. Enjoy your visit! Please come back as often as you can!

Spirituality Book Study Through May 16, on Thursdays at 6:30 pm.

In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Barbara Brown Taylor guides us through a spirituality that teaches us how to find our footing in times of uncertainty, and gives us strength and hope to face all of life's challenging moments. By putting aside our fears and anxieties, we are free to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most. We started on Thursday, April 11th and we will end on Thursday, May 16th. Please contact either Karen Lubic or John McKinney to get the Zoom link.



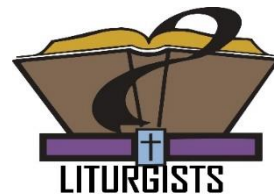
Yard Sale on May 18



Mark your calendars - SUMC will host a community yard sale on Saturday, May 18, from 9 am to 3 pm! This is a great chance to keep old items out of the landfill, to serve our neighbors, and to invite people to visit us! We will rent tables for \$25 to crafters or all who wants to sell their own things. We'll also take donations of items that the church can sell. We need volunteers to help - please consider joining in the fun! For more information, please contact Lay Leader Heather Josselyn-Cranson at hjosselyn@hotmail.com.

Join Our Liturgist Team

Reading scripture at our worship service is one of the many rewarding ways to be involved with SUMC. Liturgists help lead the congregation in prayer, read Scripture, and assist with the distribution of the bread and cup during Holy Communion. Those who enjoy public speaking, and especially reading the gospels, are welcome to join our team of Liturgists. All readings and prayers are supplied to the liturgist making it easy for you to prepare. Your commitment would be only 4-5 Sundays within the year. If you are interested, please reach out to Libby Dilling, libby@dilling.org.



Magic Years

The next Magic Years luncheon will take place on Thursday, May 16, at noon in Davison Chapel. Bill Hoke will speak on his travels to Patagonia. **PLEASE** rsvp early by signing up after Sunday services April 28, May 5, and May 12, (someone will be on the porch accepting RSVPs) or by Monday May 13, to kjdorlando@comcast.net or text/call 508-561-5382.

How to Donate Sunday Morning Altar Flowers



The Flower Team welcomes altar flower donations. To choose a date, visit a user-friendly website: [Flower Sign-Up Genius](#). or email Kerry at (healyweeks@gmail.com). Please use the comment section to note if your gift is intended to be in honor or in memory of someone special. And if you have specific flowers in mind, please also share that information in the comment section. Thanks.

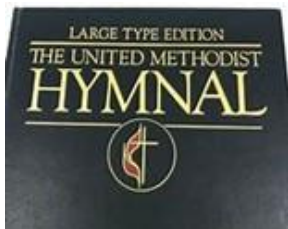
Do you love flowers? Would you like to join the team that creates the beautiful arrangements on the altar each Sunday? Please contact Kerry Healy to let her know of your interest and she'll be happy to fill you in about the process.

Coming to Church? Please Follow Safety Guidelines!

The windows in the sanctuary will remain open for the foreseeable future to improve air flow and enhance public safety. Please do not close the windows during worship. You may want to sit closer to the center aisle if you are cold. We're trying to prevent the spread of viruses and COVID. Please be mindful of the outdoor temperature and dress accordingly. Masks are available if you need one.



Do You Prefer Large Print? Hearing Assistance?



Large print copies of the *Bible*, *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing* are available for worshipers who prefer them. They can be found on a pew bench in the narthex. For those who find it difficult to hear, especially with air-circulating equipment in use during our services, easy to use hearing devices can also be helpful. Like transistor radios, they're easy to adjust and safe to wear since the earpiece fits over the ear and not inside. Our ushers will happily assist you.

Porch Party Follows Worship!

Coffee and conversation follow outside on the porch after worship today! Enjoy the sunshine while sipping coffee and the warmth of fellowship. We hope to have outdoor coffee hour while the weather is seasonable.

If you can help with the set-up or clean-up in the next few weeks, please speak to Kristin Murphy. Thanks.



Sunday Greeters Needed



The Church Growth Commission has resumed our custom of welcoming visitors and members to church each Sunday morning. Cindi Bockweg maintains a Sunday Greeters' calendar. If this is a way you want to contribute to our time together, Cindi would appreciate hearing from you! Her email address is (cindijb@hotmail.com).

Food Pantry Needs

Donations made to the shopping cart near the O'Reilly Room are delivered to the Food Bank in Maynard. Canned tuna, fruit and vegetables are always popular. Pasta, spaghetti sauce in jars, raisins in boxes, dried beans in bags, breadcrumbs, condensed milk, rice pilaf, and instant coffee are also always welcome. Donations may be left at the church's O'Reilly Room entrance any Sunday morning or Monday through Friday during office hours. Thanks for your generosity.



We Live-Stream on SUMC's YouTube Channel and Facebook Page!

Find us each Sunday morning as we live-stream on YouTube and Facebook. **You can click the links below the logos to connect in real time!** The Church Growth Commission invites you to follow us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter! By reaching out to the community through these social media platforms, the commission hopes to reach a larger audience as we move into the future. Please help our church to grow by following us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter.



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Upper Room Booklets

Lay and clergy writers who contribute to The Upper Room help laity and clergy readers around the world focus on God's loving presence in daily life. Free booklets are available in a clear rack outside the O'Reilly Room door. Or visit The Upper Room online at <http://devotional.upperroom.org/>.

Five minutes, fifteen, or thirty reading Scripture and sitting quietly in God's presence will set the tone for the whole day.

Ron Smith Memorial Fund



The Ron Smith Memorial Fund award is given each year to remember a beloved member of our congregation. Ron was a member for many years and contributed much to the music program with his very talented trumpet playing.

The Fund was established in 2019 after Ron's passing and is given annually

(1) to a young person to encourage and to help pursue their musical goals.

(2) It can also be awarded to cancer patients and loved one who provide care for them.

The Fund awards a monetary gift in May. Please see Pastor Leigh or a member of the Worship and Music Commission for more information and to apply.

Kidbury UMC

Kidbury UMC is open before and after worship! The theme for the month of April is "Throw Back." It's all about Jesus' teachings, and how, even though the world changes and looks different than it used to, Jesus' teachings are always meaningful and Jesus' love for us never changes. It is for all ages (there's even a toddler table!) and opens at 9:00 am each Sunday. Feel free to come by any time before 9:45 or after worship during Coffee Hour.



Salkehatchie Fundraiser – Save the Date – Dinner and Silent Auction on May 12, FAQs:

- **What will dinner cost?** We suggest a \$15/person or \$25/family donation for the dinner. This is not mandatory.
- **When does dinner start?** 5:30pm.
- **What's for dinner?** Southern staples! Fried chicken, Charleston red rice, biscuits, salad, and banana pudding. (We might even throw in some sweet iced tea)
- **What is available for auction?** We will get a list out a few days before the event.
- **Can I offer something for the auction?** Sure! Do you have an awesome skill, a special place you would like to share with others, or season tickets that you don't use all of? All of those are great things for the auction
- **When is the auction?** The auction will be open for bids all day on May 12, until 5:30pm. Auction winners will be announced at 6:30.
- **What about entertainment?** If you want dinner *and* a show (in reverse order), come to the Connexions Concert at 4:00pm in the sanctuary, and then stay for dinner.
- **What is Salkehatchie again?** It is our annual mission trip to impoverished areas of South Carolina, where we spend the week in service (doing really hard work fixing homes in bad condition), worship, and fellowship with other Methodist youth and adults.



Adult Formation Classes

The Adult Formation Classes meet on Sunday mornings from 9:15-9:45 am.

Exploring Topics in Christianity meets in Davison Chapel. The topics planned for the remainder of this program year are as follows:

May 5 - A Brief History of Antisemitism

May 26 - No Class, Memorial Day Weekend

May 12 - Paul and his Letters

June 2 - The Lost Gospel Q

May 19 - Messianic Passages of the OT

All are welcome to share in the discussion or to just listen. No preparation or homework required.

The Upper Room Group meets each week in the O'Reilly Room. This group opens in prayer, then reflects on a scripture passage or devotional reading provided by individual volunteers from the group.