

Meriden Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Transforming Lives as a Compassionate Community”

Irish Blessing

May there always be work for your hands to do.
May your purse always hold a coin or two.
May the sun always shine upon your window pane.
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend always be near to you and
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

read more blessings at www.lords-prayer-words.com

MINISTERS: *The Whole People of God*



CO-PASTORS:

Revs. Susan and John Gregory-Davis

WORKER JUSTICE MINISTER: Rev. Gail Kinney

PIANIST: Carol Hartman

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Michael Hogan

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Melanie Henry

TRUMPET PLAYER: Glenn Griffin

SPIRITUAL FORMATION COORDINATOR: **Kelsey MacNamee**

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: **Kathy Wright**

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MERIDEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 

March 15, 2020

Beannachtaí na Féile Padraig Ort!

(Happy St. Patrick's Day!)

Third Sunday in LENT Ten O'Clock

SILENT MEDITATION: *"These days, we need to claim our vocation as God's people--wise, active, and compassionate. We can bring beauty to the world despite the challenges of the Coronavirus. Let us choose peace, love, compassion, and caring. Let us choose Faith not fear."*
- Rev. Bruce Epperly

PRELUDE *Our Hope Candle is lit in prayer for everyone affected by the Coronavirus*

CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte (a hundred thousand welcomes!)
God is LOVE, all the time! **ALL THE TIME, GOD IS LOVE!**

CALL to THE CEILIDH of BELOVED COMMUNITY

We are called from the ends of the earth,

We are called from the center of our lives.

We are called into God's love,

To yearn for justice and to pray for peace.

We have come on journeys of our own, to a place where our journeys meet.

**FOR WHEN PATHS CROSS & PILGRIMS GATHER IN BELOVED COMMUNITY,
THERE IS MUCH TO CELEBRATE!**

OPENING MUSIC Traditional Gaelic Melody

GATHERING PRAYER *Adapted from the Iona Community*

Creator of the world, eternal God, we gather from across the miles in this sacred time to be together for a wee bit o' time. Redeemer of humanity, Good-with-us, we have come with all our differences, seeking common ground. Spirit of unity, go-between God, here in this virtual space, we gather as one.

O Sun behind all suns, shine into the barren, frozen places of our lives your healing and renewing rays of warmth. God of the Spirit of kindness, in the glory of earth and sea and star, in the kaleidoscope of color and shade and shape, in the patterns of humor and tenderness and touch, we come to you, for you come to us in Jesus and you know by experience what human life is like. We come with our faith and with our doubts; we come with our hopes and with our fears. We come as we are because you invite us to come and you have promised to be with us always. Help us to open our hearts, help us to trust, help us to let you love us

and heal us, that we may be a source of healing and love in our broken, frightened world. Amen.

AFFIRMATION of GOD'S LOVING EMBRACE

A CELTIC VERSION of the PRAYER OF JESUS

J. Phillip Newell

Ground of All Being, Mother of Life, Father of the Universe, Your name is sacred, beyond speaking. May we know your presence. May your longings be our longings, in heart and in action. May there be food for the human family today, and for the whole earth community. Forgive us the falseness of what we have done, as we forgive those who are untrue to us. Do not forsake us in our time of conflict, but lead us into new beginnings. For the light of Life, the vitality of Life, and the glory of Life, are yours, now and forever. Amen

Children's & Youth Time Virtual Church

CLIMATE JUSTICE MOMENT

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

"A Message from the Future"

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

SERMON

"Manna & Water in the Wilderness"

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"The Deer's Cry
(The Breastplate of St. Patrick—A Shield for Divine Protection)

KOINONIA / UKAMA

Prayer Requests

PRAYERS of and for the BELOVED COMMUNITY

OUR MORNING OFFERING

Invitation to Giving

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

God of all creation, send these gifts where we are unable to go. Send us to places where we would not dare to share your love, except by the assurance of your presence with us. Through these offerings we rededicate our whole lives to serving you with open hearts, and loving hands. Amen.

HABARI GANI?

Love in Action Opportunities

CLOSING MUSIC

Traditional Irish Melody

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

WELCOME ALL CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS who have joined us today on this **St. Patrick's Day Third Sunday in LENT!** If you have come as a visitor this

morning, we hope that you will leave as a friend. 😊 Especially if you are new to

our community or to our church, **please know how delighted we are to have YOU with us!!**

Whoever you are, Whomever you love, Wherever you are on Life's Journey, YOU are WELCOME Here!! And if you have no church of your own, we hope our faith community may become your spiritual home!

Tenderly Held in our Hearts and Prayers

Throughout this **WOMEN'S HERSTORY MONTH**, we give joyous thanks for the caring and sharing which make this community of faith such a **WELCOME** home for all of us, even as we fervently pray for all those affected in any way by the Covid 19 pandemic. We celebrate with all those bearing new life and hope with those yet trying to conceive or seeking to adopt a beloved child of God, and we pray for our friends in **Bolivia, Mexico, Indonesia, Uganda, Kenya, the Dominican Republic, Zambia, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe**, as well as our friends and neighbors in such troubled lands as **Syria, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Palestine, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, Yemen, North Korea, Burma, & Tibet**. **We pray with special concern for all immigrants & refugees seeking sanctuary & welcome throughout our world**, that we may be among those whose open arms and doors reveal that there is always room within the inn of God's heart. **And we pray too in solidarity with our African-American friends and neighbors, seeking to affirm with them that "BLACK LIVES MATTER", not more, but certainly not less than, all lives.**

Our hearts ache with **Jim Borchet** and his family, as they grieve the death of **Jim's sister, Ellen**; as well as **Susan Turner** upon the loss of her beloved forever father-in-law, **Cecil Baker**.

So too do we pray for **Glenn Griffin's uncle, Buzz**; **Karen Jameson's mother, Tish**; **Cindy Griffin's and Susan Borchert's uncle, Arthur**; **Judy Croitoru**; **Jim Lenz' friend, Jim**; **Joan Burch**; **Bob & Robyn Carpenter**; **Laura Cousineau's mother, Laura Keener Kreis**; **Joan Dumont**; **Chris Dye**; **Tecla McCann**; **Linda Perkins**, as well as her friends, **Dorothy, Barbara, Lenny, & Doug**; **Caren Saunder's father, William Homeyer**; **Greg Castell's father**; **Scot Zens**; **Rev. Jed Reardon**; **Carol Hartman's daughter-in-law, Michelle**; **Allyson Wendt**, as well as her daughter, **Ada Jane**; **Greg Marshall**; **Larry Burch's parents, Bill & Olive**, as well as **Larry's brother, Charlie**; **Susan Turner's cousin, Buddy Stevenson**, and **Sue's friend, Jane Miles**; **Maura Hart's father, William**; **Vicki Ramos-Glew's mother, Carol Spencer**; **Bill Chappelle's friend, Mel**; **Susan Sanzone's aunt Rita**; **Odile Clavier's mother, Marie-Claire** her niece, **Amelie Marie**.

Likewise do we pray for these members and friends of our faith community currently receiving treatment for cancer: **Bailey Sibert**; **Becky Luce**; **Ed Foltyn**; **Sue Turner's cousin Jessie's husband, Ron Lettrechio**; **Caren Saunder's mother,**

Betty Homeyer; Selden Lord's brother-in-law, **Edward**; Jan Lord's former daughter-in-law, **Michelle**; Chuck Chamley's mother, **Joan Chamley**; Laura Cousineau's brother-in-law, **Eric**; Judy Houde-Hardy's cousin, **Michael Morin**; **Hunter Townsend**; **Jo Evarts**, and her sister, **Jingles**; **Robert Bryant**; **Cynthia Howe**; Penny Arcone's brother, **Stuart Hills**, & Penny's friends, **Dick Slubin** and **Gail Graham**; Joan Dumont's stepbrother, **Lowell Toof**; **Jeff McNamara**; Lauryn Moeller's daughter-in-law, **Lisa Rae Moeller**; and Kevin Ramos-Glew's nephew, **Duncan**.

If you or someone you know would like a name to be added to our Prayer List, please let us know. In an effort to keep it as up-to-date as possible, please also let us know when you would like a name removed. Occasionally, we carefully remove a name to make room for others, but if you would like a name restored, please simply let us know and we will be happy to do so. Thank you for praying for these members of our Church Family.

IMPORTANT EVENTS for our CALENDARS

SUN Mar 15 **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**
10:00 **Pre-St. Patrick's Day Celtic Service**
11:30 **Covid 19 Task Force**
12:30 **Climate Justice Ministry Team**

Tue Mar 17 7:00 **Spiritual Companions (Harmony)**

SUN Mar 22 **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
10:00 **Spring Equinox Celebration**
11:45 **Worship & Music Ministry Team**
3:00 **UVIP Annual Meeting (Zoom)**

Birthdays this Week—We give joyous **THANKS** for the gifts of the births and lives among us of **Jeff Taylor (Sunday)**, **Ashley Brooks**, **Judy Salisbury**, **Miranda Guaraldi**, & **Grace Perottti (Monday)**, **Aaron Franklin**, **Karen McArthur**, **Stephanie Smarsik**, & **Audrey Perotti (St. Patrick's Day!)** **Joan Burch (Wednesday)**, **Joachim McClellan (Thursday)**, and **Debbie Griffiths**, **Vernon Braswell**, & **Frank Perotti (Friday)**. We pray that your special days will be filled with grateful celebration for all that your lives have been thus far, and we rejoice in anticipation of all that yet lies before you!

Birthday Blessings, Dear Friends!! 😊

Benediction

Lads and Lasses, Friends and Neighbors,

In the Spirit of our Celtic ancestor, St. Patrick, Let us go forth now to receive blessing upon blessing. May we thereby realize our power to bless, heal, and renew each other, and our world.

And may the Loving heart of God grant us...for every storm, a rainbow, for every tear, a smile, for every care, a promise, and a blessing in each trial.

May the road rise to meet us, and the wind be always at our backs.

May the peace of God reign in our hearts,

And may we be held tenderly in the palm of God's hand,
this blessed day, and even forever. Amen.