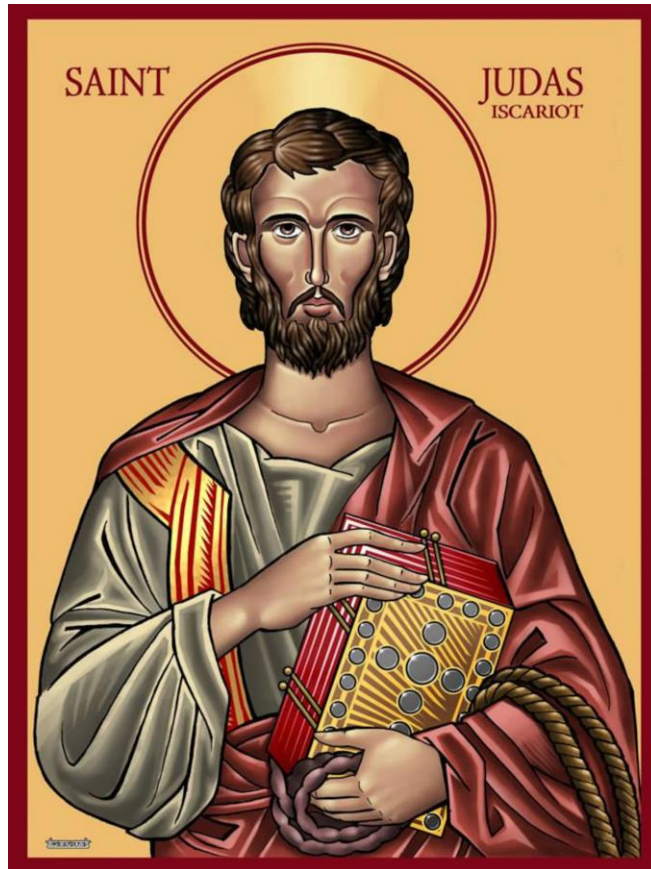


Keene Valley Congregational Church United Church of Christ

March 26, 2023



A Rebours



Keene Valley Congregational Church

A Welcoming Spiritual Community

Greetings! We are glad you joined us for worship today.

The mission of the Keene Valley Congregational Church, UCC is to welcome people wherever they are on life's journey, joining together in worship and spiritual exploration while striving lovingly to serve others with justice and compassion.

On October 7, 2018 the congregation voted overwhelmingly to become Open and Affirming by embracing the following statement of covenant:

The mission of the Keene Valley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is to welcome all people wherever they are on life's journey, joining together in worship and spiritual exploration while striving lovingly to serve with justice and compassion. In order to live more deeply into these values, while understanding that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and intersex people are often scorned and discriminated against both in the church and in society, we declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Church. We covenant to welcome all individuals into the wholeness of the life of the church and to work to end oppression and discrimination wherever we encounter them and to help create the beloved community of God's realm.

On October 10, 2021 the congregation voted unanimously to accept the following statement of covenant to become a Creation Justice Church:

Keene Valley Congregational Church affirms that the global environmental crisis is the most pressing spiritual challenge of human history. This moment calls us to understand our mission statement's charge to, "strive lovingly to serve others with justice and compassion," to broadly include both the human and non-human Creation. As such, we declare our congregation to be a Creation Justice Church. We commit ourselves to thoughtfully engage in acts of compassion to heal the world, mitigate the effects of the environmental crisis, and advocate for justice on behalf of all Creation.

We are thankful for the ways God invites us to journey together!



WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Meditation

“Agnus Dei”

Franz Schubert

Welcome

Welcoming Music

“O Thou Who Hearest Every Heartfelt Prayer”

Atkinson

***Hymn**

“Give Me a Clean Heart” (sing 2 times)

#188

Prayer of Confession

by Beth Merrill Neel

One: Forgive us, O God, when we limit you –
When we remake you in our image,
When we claim our causes as your own,
When we box you in,
And explain you away,
And in our attempts at understanding, whittle away all mystery.
Forgive us for our human impulses, and change us:

**All: Awaken us to your blinding glory,
Confound us by your love,
Shower us with grace so that we will be made new,
Recreated in your image,
Grateful for all that we cannot know.
In the name of Christ, who brought us closer to you, we pray.
Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Greeting Each Other in Peace

Anthem

“Ave Verum Corpus”

Mozart

WE SHARE SACRED CONVERSATION

Youth Message

The Rev. Laurin McArthur

Prayer

Period of Silent Meditation

Prayers and 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Offering

Offertory

“El Shaddai”

Michael Card

***Doxology**

**To God, all honor and delight,
To Christ revealed in earthly night
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

Unison Prayer of Dedication

All: God, we pray that you receive these offerings and transform them into extraordinary blessings. Where your children cry, may they be used to bring joy. Where your children have forgotten to care, may they be used to open hearts. Where your children look within, may they be used to invite all of us to look without. Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 27:3 - 8

Reflection

A Rebours

The Rev. John Sampson

Just a Moment Musical Selection

Martha Gallagher

***Hymn**

“O God, How We Have Wandered”

#202

WE RETURN TO THE WORLD

Charge

based on Micah 6:8

One: As we leave our sanctuary today, and meet again the joys and challenges of our lives and of all Creation, let us remember what God requires of us throughout the upcoming week:

All: To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

Benediction

Postlude

“Oh Lamb of God Most Holy”

Nikolaus Decius

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.

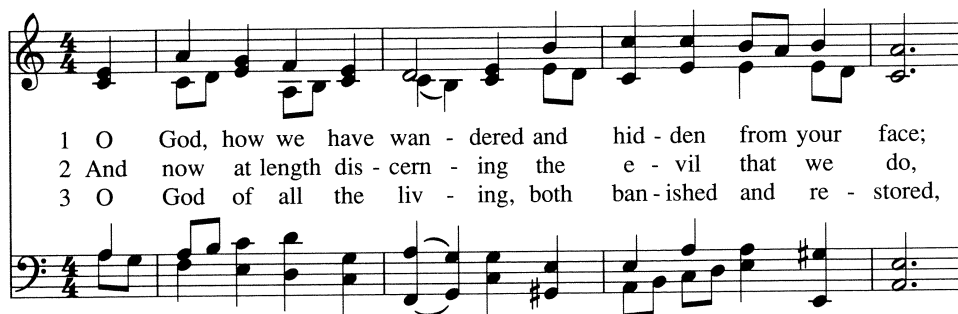
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.

O God, How We Have Wandered

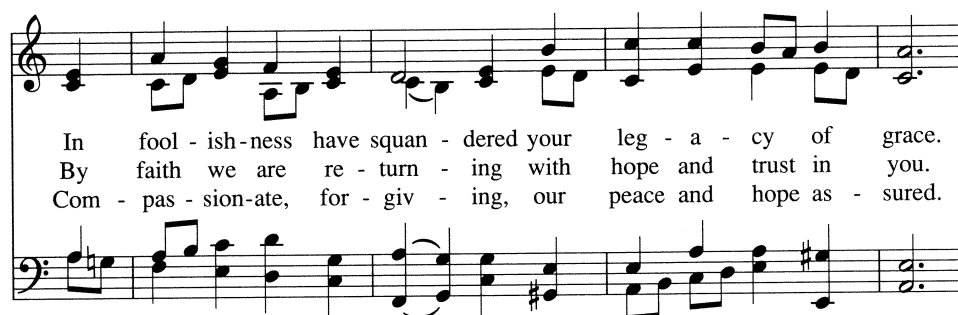
202

Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt.

Luke 15:11–32; 2 Cor. 5:16–20



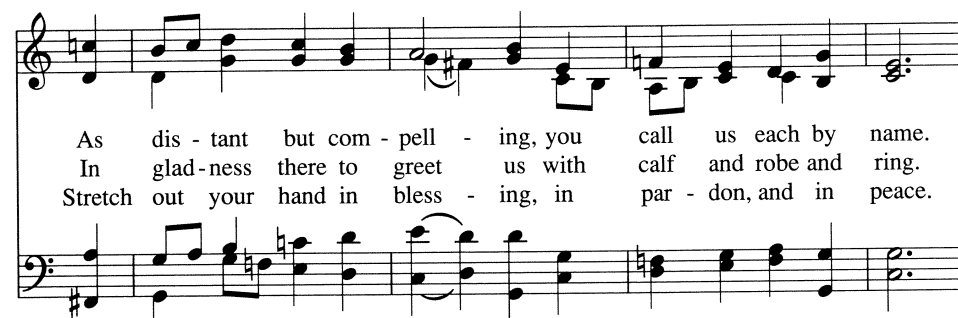
1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.



But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
In glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

This Week @ KVCC:

Day	Time	Activity
Sunday	7:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM	Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Worship – In-person and via Zoom Fasting Group
Monday	----- 7:00 AM 5: 15 PM	Pastor’s Day Off Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Spring Equinox Service
Tuesday	7:00 AM 8:00-11 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Liz in Office Council Book Discussion - Via Zoom
Wednesday	7:00 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Bells Choir
Thursday	7:00 AM 8:00 - Noon 10:30 AM 1:00-3:00 PM	Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Liz in Office Neighborhood House-In person Pastor John in Office
Friday	7:00 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Prayer Group Pot Luck
Saturday	----- 7:00 AM 9:00 AM	Pastor’s Day Off Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Faith & Issues
Sunday	7:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Worship – In person and via Zoom Fasting Group

Today's Worship Leadership:

Minister – The Rev. John Sampson

Worship Assistant – Pam Gothner

Ushers – Carol Blakeslee-Collin & Lorraine Duvall

Coffee Hour – Martha Swan

Zoom Administrator – Dave Craig

Music Director – Rob Hastings

Accompanist – Lynn DeWalt

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Instagram: kvcc12943



Today's Images:

Judas Iscariot, by UnlikelyIcons

A Descent into the Maelstrom, Harry Clarke