



Welcome!

We are glad that you chose to join us for worship this morning. We hope that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you will feel welcome here.

Guide to the bulletin: *As you follow along in our worship service today, here are a few cues for using this bulletin. An asterisk (*) indicates that those gathered are invited to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** in the bulletin indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal in the holder by your pew chair.*

Children: *Children are always welcome here. If you would like to have your younger children taken care of during the service, we have a nursery available at 9:30 a.m. If you prefer, your children are welcome to stay with you through the worship service, or they may attend our Sunday School.*

You can read more about today's activities at Memorial UCC in the announcements on the last page of the bulletin.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Gina Sprunger

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Come All You People

Alexander Gondo

***Call to Worship¹ (based on Revelation 7:9-17)**

One: God, we hunger!

All: For all to have access to nourishing food,

One: For the way we grow food and eat food to foster connection.

All: The Earth is scarred!

One: Greed treats our beloved planet as disposable.

All: We are mourning!

One: Oh, war. Oh, systems of violence.

All: Oh, the havoc they wreak.

One: We join with God who weeps over all that is lost.

All: We dream toward flourishing with the One who is the Spring of Living Water.

***Opening Prayer**

Liberating God, we feel distress and sorrow when people and the planet are not treated reverently and tenderly. As systems exploit and exhaust, we remember you intended for the world to thrive in abundance, not merely get by. Enliven our imagination, that we may partner with You to unfold the dream of communal flourishing. Amen.

***Opening Song NCH 472**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

vs 1-3

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,

When my life is almost gone,

Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

¹ Adapted from Bolton, Rev. Molly, “enfleshed: Liturgy That Matters,” enfleshed, May 8, 2022, <https://enfleshed.com/>.

**When the shadows appear and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

HEARING THE WORD

Luke: Book 2

Acts 9:36-43

Special Music

Lord of the Dance

Arr. David Wilcocks

The Good News

John 10:22-30

Time with Children

Rebecca Malke

Reflection

Planting for the Future: Gather 'Round

Pastor Kris

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer

Come Now, O God of Peace

Geonyong Lee

Prayers of the People

During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Or you can text prayers to Pastor Kris at 608-571-5870. Pastor Kris will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: pastorkris@memorialucc.org

Prayer of Jesus

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

A Ritual of Blessing and Sending

Pastor Christina Schoenwetter has completed her internship at Memorial UCC over the past 7 months. Today we celebrate her time with us and send her forth to continue her discernment of God's call in her life.

***Promises**

Pastor Kris: Together, let us wish Godspeed to Pastor Christina as she begins the next phase of her faith journey.

People: Pastor Christina, we release you from your ministry with us. We promise to hold you in prayer as you walk into whatever sacred spaces lie ahead; and as you continue nurturing your relationships with God, self, family, and community.

Pastor Christina: I thank God, both for my ministry with you and the gift of the time which lies before me. In the days ahead, I encourage you to continue supporting one another. You are the Body of Christ, equipped for the ministry that is before you. Be at peace among yourselves as you Behold, A New Thing.

Pastor Kris: Pastor Christina, God's blessings on your ministry, on your learning, on your sojourn ahead. With God's help, go forth to strengthen the faithful. Comfort the afflicted. Afflict, where necessary, the comfortable. Go forth preaching and teaching, listening to the needs of the people and to the movement of the Spirit as together we say...

All: Amen.

Sharing of Gifts

Celebrating May Birthdays

Song for Going Out NCH 307 *Glorious Things of You Are Spoken
verses 1 & 2

**Glorious things of you are spoken, Zion city of our God;
One whose word cannot be broken formed you for a blessed abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake your sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, you may smile at all your foes.**

**See! The streams of living waters, springing from eternal Love,
Well supply your sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, while such a river ever will their thirst assuage:
Grace which, like our God, the Giver, never fails from age to age?**

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* Gina Sprunger

Worship Leaders: Jonathan Schroerlucke (Dir. of Music), Jeff Darwin (Pianist), Rebecca Malke (Dir. of Faith Development), Christina Schoenwetter (Pastoral Intern), and Pastor Kris Gorton

Readers: Merry Spangler

Ushers: Steve Gorton and John Rosch

Media Room: Bill Jetzer

Camera Tech: Zac Johnson

Fellowship Hosts: the Estrella Family

Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042

Refreshments and Conversation: Today following worship, you are invited to stay for conversations and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Worship generally runs until around 10:30 a.m. or shortly after. Sunday School also runs until about 10:30 a.m. If the service goes over, students will rejoin you in worship. If it goes under, you are free to go to fellowship until Sunday School ends.

Memorial's COVID Protocols: With prayerful consideration of the health and wellness of the members and friends of the congregation our current **COVID protocols are:**

- **Wearing a mask in the building is optional.** Anyone may choose to wear a mask at any time. Please remember that some individuals wear a mask at any time even if they are fully vaccinated. A face mask can be viewed as a sign of care and concern for oneself and others. Please respect people's choices and privacy. We have **masks available** by the church office for those who wish to wear one.
- **We will be singing during worship.**

- **Masks are optional for youth and teachers during Sunday School.**
- **Masks are required in the nursery area.**

Hearing Loop and Listening Devices: For those who have hearing aids, Memorial UCC has a t-coil compatible hearing loop. Listening devices are also available for people who are hard-of-hearing. See an usher if you need assistance.



Bathrooms: There are two bathrooms near the main entrance of the church. A third, Gender Neutral and Accessible bathroom is in the hallway by the nursery. If you need assistance finding the restrooms, an usher will be happy to help you!

Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities: Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during our morning office hours. Indicate in the memo line whether the giving is to Memorial operating costs or help to our community wide nonprofit partners. Memorial UCC also offers an opportunity for you to give via PayPal! You can give securely via charge card, debit card, and direct withdrawal donations. Giving online through PayPal is fast and secure, and you do not even need to have a PayPal account to use the service to make one-time or recurring donations. Visit memorialucc.org and click on the "donate" button in the lower, right-hand corner to make your gift.

Thank you to those who regularly give electronically. Checks can be mailed directly to the church. Indicate in the memo line whether the giving is to Memorial operating costs or help to our community wide nonprofit partners. If you are interested in our monthly automatic withdrawal system, please email Cathy Halpin at halpincjo@gmail.com and she will get you signed up.

Want to Know More About Us? Pastor Kris would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact her at pastorkris@memorialucc.org. You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website at www.memorialucc.org. You can also follow us on Facebook (@FitchburgMemorialUCC), Twitter (@MemUCC), or join our Facebook group Memorial UCC: Ever-Widening Circles.