

March 29, 2020

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

10:00 am

*The Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming ✦ congregation.*

*Our deacons and pastors hope you will feel at home here.*

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, we welcome you in Christ's name.*

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### Prelude

Arioso, Johann Sebastian Bach

Will Duchon, Piano

### Welcome & Announcements

#### Hymn

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms

What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms,

leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?

I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms,

Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms!

#### Unison Opening Prayer

*Compassionate God, the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you. One breath from you and we are rescued from the arid valley of dry bones, given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you and be filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children. Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks to us to be death at first glance may be revealed as but sleep before the emergence of new life. Amen.*

#### Our Church's Covenant

*We declare our faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

*In Holy covenant, we bind ourselves to God and each other,*

*becoming devoted disciples and active apostles.*

*We promise each other to be faithful in worship,*

*and in support of this church,*

*whose Savior and Lord is Jesus Christ.*

*In Christian love, we will care for and support each other.*

*With the Bible as our guide,*

*we willingly promise, all that we are, and all that we have,*

*To the fulfillment of God's Kingdom.*

*Freely we say these things, glorying in the joy of our salvation.*

#### Passing the Peace

**Hymn** Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing (Nettleton)

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, here by Thy great help I've come.  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God.  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let that goodness like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

**Children's Message** When Things Fall Apart

**Offertory** Hands, Jewel Kilcher & Patrick Leonard MCC Folk Band

**Morning Prayers – Pastoral, Silent, 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 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.*

**Scripture** Mark 13:1-8, 24-37, read by Kate Wittenauer

**Sermon** Apocalypse Now? Rev. Jennifer Gingras

**Hymn** When We Face an Unknown Future Carol Gillette

**Benediction**

**Closing Music** What a Wonderful World, Theile & Weiss Lisa Burke

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Join us for a zoom coffee hour at 10:30: <https://zoom.us/j/460134127>

The Fruit of the Spirit gathering is on zoom at 11:30 am:  
<https://zoom.us/j/665124307?pwd=Z2lINDZqZys4NTVTM0VRUFFnVWhhdz09>

Listen every night at 8 pm for the tolling of our church bells, or better yet - join us on your front stoop and ring a bell for hope and unity.

**Content Creation for Worship:** As we are creating content for future worship services, we want to invite you to think about recording a snippet for worship on video from your home! You might read our scripture for the day, offer a greeting, a musical piece, or lead a prayer or our church's covenant. We are also accepting pictures and images! Please be in touch with Pastor Jenn or Kate Parker-Burgard if you can help.

**Tag Sale:** Our Outreach Tag Sale has been postponed until May 16<sup>th</sup>, with setup beginning on May 10<sup>th</sup> after the post-worship Mother's Day Tea.

**Monroe Food Pantry Needs:** Donations to the food pantry are way down. How about showing our town that at MCC we're all about sharing? There is an outdoor donation box that makes it easy to drop off items. Here's a list of needed items posted on the pantry's Facebook page:

- Canned fruit - mandarin
- oranges, peaches
- Canned vegetables - low sodium corn, carrots, beets, Sauerkraut, spinach
- Canned beans - low sodium black beans, cannellini, pinto, chickpeas, and kidney beans, refried beans
- Baked beans - pork baked beans, chili with beans, chili without beans, vegetarian chili
- Canned pasta - Beefaroni, Beef Ravioli, Spaghetti O's
- Canned meat - solid white tuna in water, chicken
- Jarred pasta sauce - regular and low sodium
- Broth - vegetable, chicken, beef
- Canned tomatoes - (regular and low sodium) tomato puree, diced, crushed, whole, paste
- Pasta - egg noodles, elbows, linguine, etc.
- Ramen - beef, shrimp
- Baking supplies - bread crumbs, brownie and cake mix, flour, sugar, pancake mix
- Packaged meals - Hamburger Helper, Knorr pasta and rice sides, Pasta-roni, Rice-a-roni
- Salad dressing - balsamic, blue cheese, French, Italian, ranch
- Condiments - ketchup, mayo, yellow mustard, pancake syrup, sugar free pancake syrup
- Crunchy peanut butter
- Strawberry preserves/jelly
- Ground coffee - regular, decaf
- Raisins
- HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS
- LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- Paper towels

**Stewardship in a Time of Disruption:** The mission of our church to incarnate God's love and work for a more compassionate, just and peaceful world is as important as ever. During this time of disruption of Sunday church services, it will be important to maintain our giving so the church can continue to operate. For now, the church office is closed and our staff is working remotely to continue the church's mission. Now is the time for all of us to do our best to continue our donations so that we ensure the smooth operation of our church's ministries.

The good news is that heading into this time we have received over \$202,000 in pledges for 2020, a goal we have been trying to reach for several years. And collections on pledges have been strong from January to March - thank you! There are several ways you can continue giving to MCC, including:

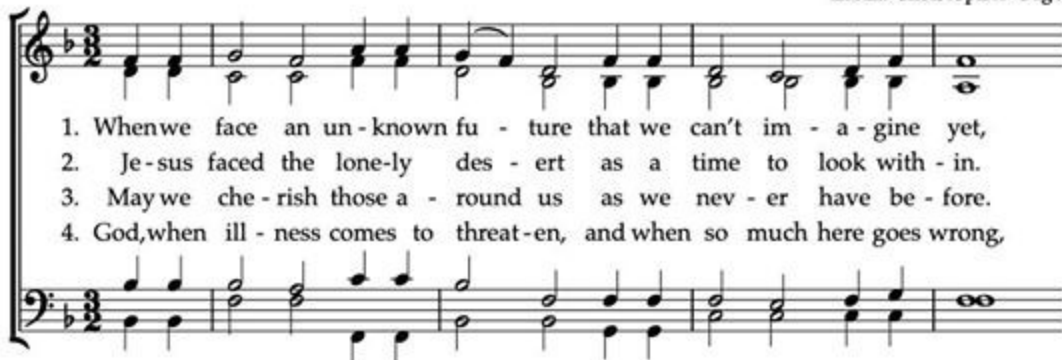
- Mail or drop off your donations to the church office mailbox at 34 Church Street, Monroe CT 06468, attention MCC Receiver. Mail is being collected on a daily basis, and checks are being counted and deposited on a weekly basis.
- Arrange for electronic automatic payment to MCC via your bank
- Make electronic payments via Vanco, by clicking on the "Donate" link on our [web site](http://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html), <http://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>

I hope to see you all soon. In the meantime, thanks for your support of MCC and feel free to contact me if you have any questions at [jorourke224@gmail.com](mailto:jorourke224@gmail.com) . John O'Rourke – MCC Receiver.

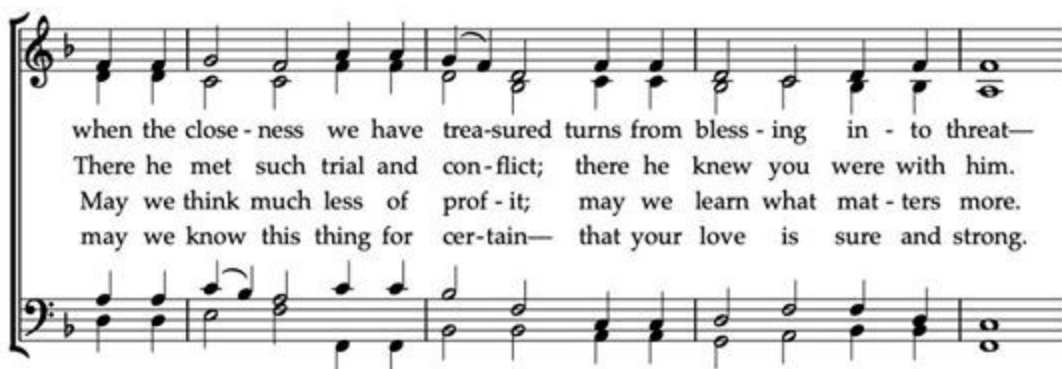
# When We Face an Unknown Future

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

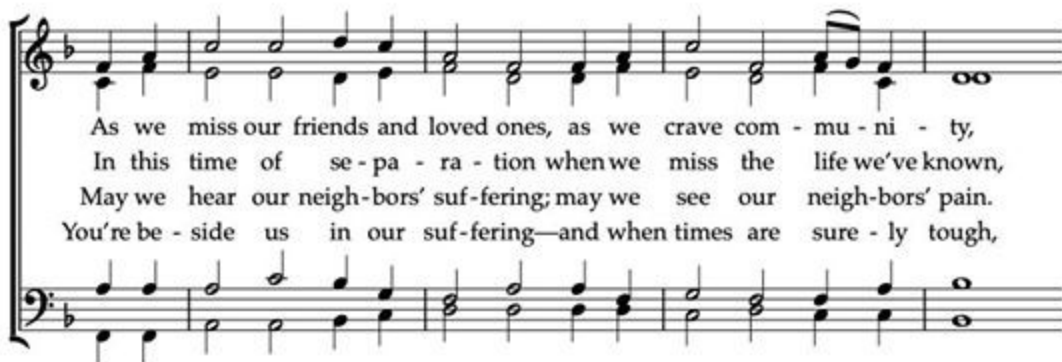
*Beach Spring*, attr. B. F. White;  
harm. Christopher Gage



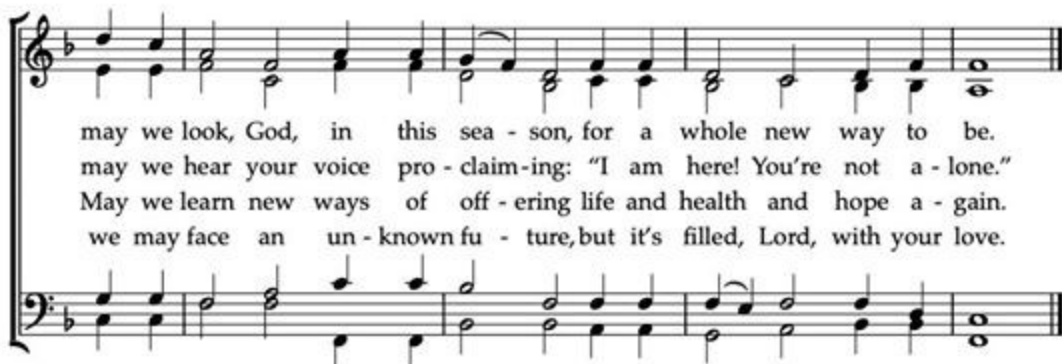
1. When we face an un-known fu-ture that we can't im-a-gine yet,  
2. Je-sus faced the lone-ly des-ert as a time to look with-in.  
3. May we che-rish those a-round us as we nev-er have be-fore.  
4. God, when ill-ness comes to threat-en, and when so much here goes wrong,



when the close-ness we have trea-sured turns from bless-ing in-to threat-  
There he met such trial and con-flict; there he knew you were with him.  
May we think much less of prof-it; may we learn what mat-ters more.  
may we know this thing for cer-tain—that your love is sure and strong.



As we miss our friends and loved ones, as we crave com-mu-ni-ty,  
In this time of se-pa-ra-tion when we miss the life we've known,  
May we hear our neigh-bors' suf-fering; may we see our neigh-bors' pain.  
You're be-side us in our suf-fering—and when times are sure-ly tough,



may we look, God, in this sea-son, for a whole new way to be.  
may we hear your voice pro-claim-ing: "I am here! You're not a-lone."  
May we learn new ways of off-ering life and health and hope a-gain.  
we may face an un-known fu-ture, but it's filled, Lord, with your love.

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New Hymns: [www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com) | Email: [carolynshymns@gmail.com](mailto:carolynshymns@gmail.com)