

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 10, 2024



*"Israel in Egypt," Edward Poynter (1867)*

You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice. Remember that you were enslaved in Egypt, and the Holy One, your God, redeemed you.

Deuteronomy 24:17-18

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**Sunday, March 10, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent | Second Sunday of Confirmation**

Tolling of the Bells

Prelude *O Blessed Spring* *Biery*

Call to Worship *Psalms 107:1-9*

\*Opening Hymn *O Day of Rest and Gladness*

Welcome & Announcements

Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of desert times and holy contemplation, confront us again with your word. Jesus, we wish to answer your call. We want to follow you. Forgive us when we judge others from the well of our own fear. Forgive us when we exclude people from the storehouse of our own anxiety. Set again the borders of our lives that we may discover common purpose and a shared path. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

*One:* The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

Choir Anthem *Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name* *Dennard*

Luke 19:1-10

Blessing

Lenten Stories of Commonality

Message for All Ages

Sermon *"Drop Your Nets or Climb Down Your Tree"*

\*Hymn *There is a Balm in Gilead*

Pastoral Prayer & The 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.*

*Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

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\* As the Spirit guides you, we encourage you to rise in body or spirit.





## 393 O Day of Rest and Gladness

1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,  
2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion the light first had its birth;  
3 On you, God's peo - ple, meet - ing, the Ho - ly Scrip-ture hear,

O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright;  
on you, for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;  
Christ's liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through bread and wine made near.

on you, the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,  
on you, our Lord vic - to - rious sent Spir - it forth from heaven.  
New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,

sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" to the great God tri - une.  
And thus on you, most glo - rious, a tri - ple light was given.  
we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.

In this text the first day of the week represents a threefold commemoration of Creation, Resurrection, and Pentecost—each an encounter with Trinitarian activity centered on one of the Three Persons. The tune name recalls the secular German song adapted for use with several hymns.

## There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43**African-American spiritual; alt.*

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

*Last time, end*

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,  
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,  
 3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

*to Refrain*

But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
 who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev - er fail to lend.  
 you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

*This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling especially weighed down by the burden of their captivity.*

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD Irr. with refrain  
*African-American spiritual*

# 182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10-14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5).

# Bulletin Reminders

Each week, after worship, Rev. Morisse is available for conversation in the Parish Hall.

## FALL FAIR 2024 ANNOUNCES DATE

This year, our Fall Fair will take place on Saturday, **September 28**. The Fair's "Setup Week," September 22 through September 27, will require just about all hands. So, please mark your calendars.

## YOUTH GROUP PROVIDES FROZEN MEALS-TO-GO

The Youth Group has lovingly prepared two types of dinners: vegetarian chili and chicken and rice casserole. These meals are available for the taking in the freezer in the Parish Hall kitchen. There's no need to contact anyone. Just stop by and bring a meal to someone in need.

## EASTER CASCARONES ARE BACK

We could use any giftwrap tissue paper, in white or pastel colors. And those little circles left over from your hole puncher. Drop off in marked bin in Parish Hall.

## SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION NOW WEEKLY

A scripture discussion will now occur every Sunday, in the Parlor, beginning 30 minutes after the service. Weeks 1 and 3 will be led by Shari Van Hook, and weeks 2 and 4 by Meg Doucette. All are welcome.

## CWS HYGIENE KITS

We will be collecting items for CWS hygiene kits through Lent. This year, we need **hand towels, washcloths, nail clippers, soap, combs, and toothbrushes**. Please leave donations in the baskets near the lower elevator.

## OPEN DOOR THEATER PRESENTS L. FRANK BAUM'S THE WIZARD OF OZ March 15, 7:00 p.m.

**R.J. Grey Jr. High School Auditorium  
16 Charter Road, Acton**

We will present *The Wizard of Oz* in the inclusive and authentic way that makes Open Door Theater a home for so many of us. There's no place like Open Door Theater! This performance features our own **Erin McCarthy**, who plays "Nikko," the wicked witch's right-hand monkey. See *Wednesday Email* for ticket info.

## TROOP 12 FRAMINGHAM

### 41ST ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16 7:30-11:30**

**PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 87 EDGELL RD**

**\$10/ADULTS, \$7/SENIORS, \$5/KIDS (5-11)**

**UNDER 4 AND CUB SCOUTS IN UNIFORM FREE**





**Mark March 10 as...**  
**One Great Hour of Sharing Day**

**Join us in making a difference**

**How You Can Help:**



*Mail checks to United Church of Christ, P.O. Box  
71957, Cleveland, Ohio 44194 or give online via a secure  
donation form or Text OGHS to 41444 and follow the prompts to  
give securely.*

**Your gifts toward this offering are welcome at any time.**