



March 16, 2025 2nd Sunday in Lent
Blessing of the St. Patrick's Day Baskets

† Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Prelude on "Slane"

Gilbert M. Martin

Greeting

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.
Thanks be to God!

† Call to Worship

taken from the breastplate of Saint Patrick

Christ, be with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit,
Christ where I arise, Christ in the heart of every person who thinks of me,

Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

Let us worship God!

† Opening Hymn

There is Room in God's Great Welcome

HOLY MANNA



1. There is room in God's great wel - come; See! The doors are o - pen wide!
 2. **There is room in our good na - tion if we stand on jus - tice-ground.**
 3. There is room for un - der - stand - ing, for the out - cast and the poor;
 4. **There is room in faith - ful church - es for the wound-ed and op-pressed:**



Here on earth as in God's hea - ven, hear the call to come in - side!
God has made a good cre - a - tion; col - ors, cul - tures all a - bound.
 For the Christ - ian, Jew, and Mus - lim there is room for these and more.
Wo - men who've been told they're worth - less, re - fu - gees who feel dis-tressed,



There is so much room for dif - ference men and wo - men, gay and straight.
Wel - come, sis - ter! Wel - come, bro - ther! All those yearn - ing to breathe free!
 For the peo - ple on the fring - er, for the ones with long ca - reer,
Im - mi - grants who fear the fu - ture, peo - ple scorned and pushed and shoved.



In God's love, the rooms are count - less, but there is no room for hate.
There is room for one an - oth - er but no room for big - o - try.
 There is room for build - ing bridg - es, but there is no room for fear.
God, may we seek what you trea - sure: may we all make room for love.

† Invocation

Loving God, you save all who seek refuge in you. Grant that we who know your salvation may walk always in your light, take courage in your faithfulness, and rejoice in your astounding goodness to us. Through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. **Amen.**

Kyrie eleison **Christe eleison** Kyrie eleison

Ky-ri-e, Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son. Ky-ri-e, Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste,

10 Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky-ri-e, Ky-ri-e e - le - i -

20 son. Ky - re-e, Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son, e - le i son.

Blessing of the Saint Patrick's Day Baskets

O God, we pray for our neighbors, whom we have promised to love as we love you. Keep them safe, and let them know they are truly a valued part of our community. And now, we pray over their baskets. We ask a blessing on these baskets in which they carry their food, signs of hope, nourishment, and home. May the basket they receive remind them of your love and our prayers. Also, we pray for staff and volunteers at the Enfield Food Shelf. Give these servants the wisdom to find inspiration for each person. Give them the energy and creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our community. Bless each one gathered here that we may seek every opportunity to grow in our knowledge and love of you — in our worship, in our missions, and in our community engagement. We give ourselves to you, O Lord, the author and perfecter of our faith.
Amen.

1. Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.

5 Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but he is strong.

Children's Moment

Yes, Je-sus loves me! Yes, Je-sus loves me! Yes, Je-sus loves me! The Bi-ble tells me so.

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,



The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

**to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.**

Antiphon

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.
**Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

Antiphon

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!
“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.
**Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.**

Antiphon

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
**Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
**Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!**

Antiphon

† Hymn

Saranam, Saranam (Refuge)

PUNJABI



Je - sus, Sav - ior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly: Sar - a - nam, Sar - a - nam, Sar - a - nam;

5
thou the Rock, my ref - uge that's higher than I: Sar - a - nam, Sar - a - nam, Sar - a - nam.

10
1. In the midst of foes I cry to thee, from the ends of earth wher - ev - er
2. In thy tent give me a dwell - ing place, and be - neath thy wings may I find
3. O that I my vows to thee may pay, and that by thy faith - ful - ness to
4. Yes - ter - day, to - day, for - e'er the same, lo, the her - i - tage of all who

13
I may be; my strength in help - less - ness, O an - swer me:
shel - tering grace; O lift on me the sun - shine of thy face:
me each day may live, and on thy love my bur - dens lay:
bear thy name; to ran - som them from sin the Sav - ior came:

16
Sar - a - nam, Sar - a - nam, Sar - a - nam.

† Gospel Lesson

Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Sharon Midyette

Sharing our Concerns

For all these persons and all who are in need.
Hold your people near, O God.

Sharing our Joys

We give thanks to God for these blessings.
Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayer

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.

† Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.

Response to the Peace

Make Me an Instrument of Peace

Mark A. Miller

Make me an in - stru - ment, make me an in - stru - ment, make me an
 11 in - stru - ment of peace, of peace. 1. 2. of peace.

The musical notation is written on two staves in 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line, including a first and second ending. The lyrics are: "Make me an in - stru - ment, make me an in - stru - ment, make me an in - stru - ment of peace, of peace. 1. 2. of peace."

Invitation to the Offering

Christ has given his life for us. Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offertory

The Irish Blessing
Flautist: Lisa Gore

Traditional Irish

† Doxology

Lenten Doxology

FINLANDIA



O suff'ring Je - sus, in these for - ty days. We view your sor - row, share in your dis - tress.

9



Our Lenten songs are filled with mu - ted praise; Yet by your pas - sion, we are tru - ly blessed.

17



Praise to our God, and praise to you, the Son! Praise to the Spir it, our God, Three in - One. A - men.

† Prayer of Dedication

O God, we have beheld your goodness to us. Accept the offering of the work of our hands, and use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

† Closing Hymn

I Choose Love

Mark Miller



1. In the midst of pain,	I choose love.	In the midst of
2. In the midst of war,	I choose peace.	In the midst of
3. When my world falls down,	I will rise.	When my world falls
4. In the midst of pain,	I choose love.	In the midst of

6



pain, I choose love.	In the midst of pain,	sor-row fall - ing down like
war, I choose peace.	In the midst of war,	hate and an - ger keep - ing
down, I will rise.	When my world falls down,	ex - pla - na - tions can't be
pain, I choose love.	In the midst of pain,	sor-row fall - ing down like

12



rain, I a - wait the sun a - gain,	I choose love.	I choose love.
score, I will seek the good once more,	I choose peace.	I choose peace.
found, I will climb to ho - ly ground,	I will rise.	I will rise.
rain, I a - wait the sun a - gain,	I choose love.	I choose love.

† Benediction

Postlude

Voluntary on "Slane"

Eugene Butler

WISE FOR MENTAL HEALTH COVENANT

We, Enfield UCC, commit ourselves to providing and promoting education, activities, and resources for individuals and families, as well as advocating for legislative action and collaborating with other mental health organizations. To that end, we joyously extend our church's compassionate welcome and love to members and non-members alike who experience mental illnesses or are touched by them.

WELCOME STATEMENT

We covenant with God and each other to live as Jesus has taught. Following God's example, we strive to be a Christian Community welcoming you no matter who you are. No matter your physical or mental ability, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, or economic status, you are truly welcome. We acknowledge past hurts individuals may have experienced and look to offer a safe, non-judgmental space for all who want to know God in Christ. This covenant includes the right to participate equally and fully in all aspects of the life and ministry of this congregation. In a spirit of understanding, we strive for collaboration as we seek to become the fully inclusive community of faith that God calls us to be.

ENFIELD UCC GUN POLICY

Gun violence continues to exist in the United States as a public health issue, one that requires reform in policy and culture. Enfield UCC is a gun-free zone, and no one may bring a firearm on the premises unless explicitly authorized by the pastor and/or moderator.

The United Church of Christ is a proponent of gun safety and gun control and supports policies including:

- strengthen the licensing and registration of handgun transfers
- restrict firearm possession by persons convicted of violent crimes and by juveniles
- limit handgun purchases to one per month
- strengthen regulation of gun dealers
- increase civil and criminal liability for misuse of firearms
- prohibit semiautomatic assault weapons, Saturday night specials, explosive ammunition and large capacity magazines
- require gun safety devices
- require training in the safe use of firearms as a condition of licensing

We encourage everyone to be in touch with legislators, urging them to pass legislation that restricts the sale of firearms.