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UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

PRELUDE

Josh Coram

Prelude on "What Wondrous Love is This" by *John G. Barr*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The dust that shapes the journey, the cross that guides it, the color that surrounds it, the light that fades through it, the Word that foretells it, the wilderness that invites it--

People: This is Lent, and into its wilderness God calls us.

Leader: Come, friends, Christ is heading for Jerusalem.

***GATHERING HYMN #143 Come Now, O God**

PRAYER CONCERNS

UNISON PRAYER (*Hymnal #1011*)

**All: A wilderness beckons us; a desert, a barren place,
yet a place of blessing and discovery.**

**Jesus, steady companion, accompany us as we enter the hurtful places, the dangerous
places deep within us.**

**Jesus, our wild and well-traveled guide, lead us into this emptiness, where all will fall away,
and we will have nothing but you.**

**Walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death,
where we shall be raised and drink of deep springs. Amen**

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**

***HYMN OF THE MONTH #539 God Speaks to Us**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 32

Leader: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

People: Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.

Leader: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

People: Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Leader: Therefore, let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.

People: You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Leader: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

People: Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.

All: Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. Please consider these options for supporting the work of our church: checks, cash, or arrange for your bank or credit union to send a monthly check to UUC at no charge to the donor.

OFFERTORY

Josh Coram

Diapason Movement in F Major *by John Keeble*

***DOXOLOGY #71A & BLESSING**

Praise God, the source of life and birth.

Praise God, the Word who came to earth.

Praise God the Spirit, holy Flame.

All glory, honor to God's name.

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (*pew Bible p.2*);
Matthew 4:1-11 (*pew Bible p.837*)

SERMONIC MEDITATION

Josh Coram

There Is a Balm in Gilead

SERMON Eight Billion Reasons to Fast *Rev. Dr. Paul Briggs*

*** CLOSING HYMN #156**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*** BENEDICTION**

We entered to worship and pray...

People: Now Let us now depart to serve. Amen.

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE #690 Threefold Amen**

POSTLUDE

Josh Coram

Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness (Ebenezer)

by Paul Manz

***Please stand as you are able.**

Please join us for refreshments across the street in the Church Center immediately following worship.

Prayer Concerns: Ding Jiayi & Family, Chang Weiping & Family, Wes Bentz, Lowin, Michelle Garcia Escobar, Vangelia Perryman, Esther & Marcus Epps, Bob & Deb Lewis, Bob Condrate, Joan & Brad Bowden, Luanne Crosby’s friend: Kathy Bohlen (cancer), Joan Schulze’s niece, Marnie Johnson, Walter & Joan’s brother-in-law, Lee Richie (Stage 4 esophageal cancer), Dave Porter.

February Leadership: Trustee: Jerry Jusianiec, **Fellowship:** Deb Stephens, **Deacon:** Jan Porter, **Elder:** Rick Stephens.

Serving Today

Guest Preacher.....Paul Briggs
Lay Leader.....Sharon Smith
Greeter(s).....Deb & Rick Stephens
Flowers.....Lent
Coffee Hour..... the Briggs
Keyboard.....Josh Coram
Usher.....Deb Stephens
Zoom Host.....Jim Ninos

Looking Ahead – March 1 – Altar Communion

Guest Preacher.....Sarah Jacoby Murphy
Lay Leader.....Tiersa Watson
Greeter(s).....the Watsons
Communion.....Rick Stephens & Bob Heineman
Coffee Hour.....Catherine Chambers
Keyboard.....Katrina Von Buren
Usher.....Deb Stephens
Zoom Host.....Jim Ninos

Upcoming Guest Preachers

Mar 1 Sarah Jacoby Murphy
Mar 8 Sarah Jacoby Murphy
Mar 15 Paul Briggs
Mar 22 Marc Smithers

Flowers

Mar 1 Lent
Mar 8 Lent
Mar 15 Lent
Mar 22 Lent

Greeters

Mar 1 Watsons
Mar 8 Perkins
Mar 15 Burdick
Mar 22 Tucker

Coffee Hour

Mar 1 Chambers
Mar 8 Trustees
Mar 15 Tucker
Mar 22 Watson

Lay Leaders

Usher

Mar 1 Tiersa Watson
Mar 8 Anna McHale
Mar 15 Lana Meissner
Mar 22 Deb Stephens

Mar Meacham
Mar 8 Mary Perkins

Guests and Newcomers: We extend a special welcome to newcomers and visitors and encourage you to accept a welcome packet which includes information and treats from our UUC family. One of our deacons will be sure you receive one as you leave the sanctuary this morning.

Mission of the Month for February is Comfort House of Allegany County, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation known as Hart Comfort House, offers free comfort care for those in their last three months of a terminal illness. Hart Comfort House, designed to be a welcoming and comforting place, is an alternative to the hospital or a nursing home when a person can no longer be looked after in his or her own home.

CommUNITY Potluck dinners are returning to the UUC! We will again be partnering with the Alfred State College Center for Leadership and Engagement, who will provide a main dish, a cake donated by N'Dulge, and some enthusiastic student volunteers. No need to sign up in advance - just bring a dish and enjoy connecting with friends old and new. The dinners are scheduled for the King David from 6:00 - 8:00 pm on the following Wednesdays: Feb [25](#), Mar 25, Apr 29.

Lenten Project: For this year's Lenten Project the Elders decided on a five-week program of daily challenges focused on serving others, loving neighbors, sharing joy, bringing light, and growing in gratitude & faith. You will find "40 acts of kindness & generosity" handouts at the back of the sanctuary. Please consider doing as many activities as are appropriate for you as an individual or as a family. The Elders hope that you enjoy participating in these activities and would appreciate your feedback! Following Lent, the mission of the month will be Haiti Outreach, with more information to follow in April.

143

Come Now, O God

LOST IN THE NIGHT 11.11.11 with refrain

Bm G A7 D

1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en;
 2 Come when we squand - er the free - dom you gave us;
 3 Come, lead us out of our self - serv - ing mad - ness;

A D Em7 D

come when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en;
 come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us;
 come, while the world is still shroud - ed in sad - ness;

Bm G A7 D

come when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en:
 come, though we won - der if you can still save us:
 come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness:

Em7 F# F#7 Bm

come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

539 God Speaks to Us in Bird and Song

EVENING LIGHT 8.8.8.6

Dm F G Am Dm Bb Am

1 God speaks to us in bird and song, in winds that
 2 God speaks to us in far and near, in peace of
 3 God speaks to us in dark - est night, by qui - et
 4 O Voice di-vine, speak un - to me, be - yond the

Dm G A Bb F

drift the clouds a - long, a - bove the din and
 home and friends most dear, from fad - ed past and
 ways through morn - ings bright, when shad - ows fall with
 earth, be - yond the sea, and let me ech - o

C/E Dm A Bb C Dsus G/D D

toil of wrong, a mel - o - dy of love.
 pre - sent clear, a mel - o - dy of love.
 eve - ning light, a mel - o - dy of love.
 joy - ful - ly a mel - o - dy of love.

156 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

WELLESLEY 8.7.8.7

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy like the
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more
 3 But we make God's love too nar - row by false
 4 For the love of God is broad - er than the
 5 If our love were but more sim - ple, we should

wide - ness of the sea. There's a kind - ness
 grac - es for the good. There is mer - cy
 lim - its of our own, and we mag - ni -
 mea - sures of the mind, and the heart of
 rest up - on God's word, and our lives would

in God's jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 with the Sav - ior, there is heal - ing in his blood.
 fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
 the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
 be il - lu - mined by the pres - ence of our Lord.

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.