



**MARCH 16, 2025, AT 10:45 A.M.**

**Welcome!** If you are worshiping with us for the first time, we hope that you will find God's presence among us. Your presence with us enriches our vision of the Body of Christ, and we give thanks that you have joined us today. We encourage you to sign in using our online connect card at [uccmanhattan.org/online](http://uccmanhattan.org/online). If you're worshiping with us in the sanctuary you can also sign in at either door, if you'd rather. Immediately following worship, we hope you'll join us for conversation or just stay put in the Zoom room if you're worshiping online. We look forward to greeting you there. If you have questions, please ask.

**If you need accommodations**, please let one of the ushers know. Hearing assist devices, wheelchairs, and walkers are available. The elevator provides access to all three floors of the building. Restrooms are located on each floor. Our lower level has wheelchair accessible, all-gender restrooms. Diaper changing stations are located in both restrooms on the main floor.

**Children are welcome in worship** (and we know they may need to wiggle!). Please reach out to Brandy McDonald ([brandy@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:brandy@uccmanhattan.org)) if you have questions about children's ministries. You may visit our website for information about Sunday School for children and adults during the school year.

**WiFi password for FCUCC guest:**

**YouAreLoved**

*Our service is recorded so we can share it with those who may have missed worship today. If you are present in the sanctuary, you may be included in this recording. Please contact one of the pastors for more information.*

**----- Assisting in Today's Worship -----**

**Sanctuary Greeter:** Eiselein Family

**Fellowship Host:** Eiselein Family

**Zoom Sharer:** Kerri Keller

**Word for Children:** Brandy McDonald

**Reading Scripture:** Eiselein Family

**Tech Team:** Janet George

**Worship Leader:** Paul Hunt

**WELCOME**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

“Prelude No. 10, Op. 23 in Gb Major”

Alicia Santee-Davis, piano  
Sergei Rachmaninov

**CALLED INTO GOD'S PRESENCE**

*One:* Come as you are.

*Many:* **If you have deep faith  
or your faith has run dry,**

*One:* if you know every scripture  
or none at all,

*Many:* **if you have calloused hands  
and live your faith through good works,**

*One:* or if you kneel at God's feet, with a million hungry questions,

*Many:* **come as you are.**

*One:* This is God's house.

*Many:* **None are turned away.**

*One:* All are welcome here.

✦ **HYMN 21** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

**“God Reigns O'er All the Earth”**

*Terra Beata*

✦ *Indicates all who are able, please stand.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

God of Grace,

We long to do the “right” thing.

We long to make the “right” choice.

We long to stand on the “right” side of the dividing line.

In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us.

In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.

Show us how to hold our heart's desire for perfection loosely.

Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.

For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you.

Show us the way.

Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*One:* Faithful friends, God knows our hearts.

*Many:* **When we mean well and lose our way, God knows. When we try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows. When we long to be close to God, and doubt our worth, God knows.**

*One:* You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven.  
You have been sent to serve.

*Many:* **This is the good news of the gospel!  
Nothing can separate us from God's love.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## ✦ EXCHANGING THE PEACE

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

*Many:* **And also with you.**

*As a sign of our reconciliation, please greet those around you with words such as: "Peace be with you. / And also with you." If you are worshiping online, you can use the chat feature in Zoom. Please be mindful of other people's preferences about physical contact. If you prefer not to shake hands, you can let others around you know by pressing your palms together in front of your heart (as if in prayer).*

## ✦ ACT OF PRAISE

"Sign Us with Ashes" v. 2



## **🌀 LISTENING**

*for our Still-speaking God*

### **WORD FOR CHILDREN:**

Brandy McDonald

*Children ages 3-1st grade are welcome to attend Kids Worship after the Word for Children. Children are walked up by staff/volunteer.*

### **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Eiselein Family

*Esther 4:10-17 (First Testament page 436 in the pew Bible)*

### **SERMON**

Edith Guffey

*“For Such a Time as This”*

PFLAG National, Board Chair

## **🌀 RESPONDING**

*in hope and thanksgiving*

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*Prefer to make an electronic contribution? Scan the QR Code at right with the camera on your smartphone to be taken directly to our donate page or visit [uccmanhattan.org/giving](http://uccmanhattan.org/giving) to learn how to set up automatic giving. Thank you for being a part of our ministry.*



### **OFFERTORY**

*“Set Me As a Seal Upon Your Heart”*

Choir  
Rene Clausen

### **✦ DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*You are invited to type your prayers into the chat.  
We respond: Merciful God....**hear our prayer.***

## **PRAYER OF JESUS** *(said in unison)*

*You are invited to use whatever name for God you find most meaningful (Mother, Father, Creator, God, Friend, Holy One, etc.). Together, our names for God will create a beautiful chorus reaching out to the Holy.*

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and  
come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test,  
strengthen us.  
From trial too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and  
forever. Amen.**

*This version of The Lord's Prayer is from  
A New Zealand Prayer Book from the Anglican Church.*

## **GOING FORTH**

*to be messengers of good news*

✦ **HYMN 212** *(The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.)*

**"O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns"**

*Charterhouse*

**SHARING OPPORTUNITIES TO LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY.  
CHALLENGE SPIRITUALLY. MINISTER FERVENTLY.**

*New to First Congregational? We'd love to meet you. Use the QR code at right  
to complete a Connect Card.*



✦ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

# ✦ CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION

## "Ubi Caritas"

Refrain

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
*Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,*

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.  
*live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.*

## POSTLUDE

"Il Porco Rosso"

Joe Hisaishi

Permission to print the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-710121.



## TAKE TIME FOR TAIZÉ

Join us on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. for Taizé Worship. Taizé is a 30-minute service of singing, scripture, prayer and silence based on the pattern of worship in use at the ecumenical community at Taizé, France.

## **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

### ***THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 16***

8:30 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Service of the Word  
*Edith Guffey, Guest Speaker*

12:00 noon Fellowship Hour

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

### ***MONDAY, MARCH 17***

5:30 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

### ***TUESDAY, MARCH 18***

11:30 a.m. Book Study, Zoom

12:15 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

### ***WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19***

12:00 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

7:00 p.m. Cabinet meeting, Zoom

Turning Point AA meeting, Andover Hall

Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

### ***THURSDAY, MARCH 20***

7:00 p.m. Taizé Worship, Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

### ***FRIDAY, MARCH 21***

5:00 p.m. Newsletter Deadline

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

### ***SATURDAY, MARCH 22***

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

### ***NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 23***

8:30 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Service of the Word

12:00 noon Fellowship Hour

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly



*Join us on Facebook at  
[facebook.com/uccmanhattanks](https://www.facebook.com/uccmanhattanks)*

Ecumenical Campus Ministry at Kansas State University is a cooperative ministry supported by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). For more information on ECM's activities and schedules, please visit us on Facebook (ECM at K-State) or at [www.ksu.edu/ecm](http://www.ksu.edu/ecm)





## Volunteers for Sunday, March 23

**Greeter:** Mobina Golmohammadi

**Reading Scripture:** Brenda Alexander

**Fellowship Host:** Bethany Stock

**Zoom Screen Sharer:** Kerri Keller

**Tech Team:** Anne Fredrickson, Craig Weston

Visit  
[uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups](http://uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups)  
to volunteer.

### **Generosity Spotlight** – This week we give thanks for....

the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors. This joyful group meets in the "crafting bunker" every month or so to craft, nosh, and provide support to one another.

Over the years this group has supported its members (many of whom are from the wider community) through life's ups and downs. They also excel at hospitality and helping new folks as they seek community. Plus, they are always ready to help with our crafting needs from backpack tags to greeting cards to quilts to Paschal candles, balloon arches and more!

Thank you for Being the Church!

### **PFLAG National Board Chair Edith Guffey** – First Congregational

member Edith Guffey just started her term as chair of the national board of PFLAG. Thank you for your faithful service and leadership, Edith! Learn more about her work here: <https://lavendermagazine.com/featured-home-page/edith-guffey-assumes-the-helm-as-pflag-nationals-board-chair/>

**Staff Availability** – Pastor Caela will be away from the office from March 14-22 for vacation. During this time Caela will not be checking e-mail, text messages, or voicemail. If you have a pastoral care need during this time, please contact the church office, Pastor Sue, or one of our Ministers of Care.

#### ***First Congregational UCC, Manhattan—an Open and Affirming Congregation***

In the spirit of love, openness, and inclusiveness we welcome persons of every race, culture, nationality, age, family configuration, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, and socio-economic status to participate fully in all aspects of our church's life and ministry. –from *Open and Affirming Statement* adopted May 11, 2003

#### ***The Mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ is***

- To love and accept others unconditionally as God loves and accepts us, and by example, to encourage others to do the same.
- To challenge ourselves to grow spiritually through worship, education, nurture, reflection, discussion, fellowship, and outreach.
- To minister to others locally, nationally, and globally with the same fervor as we minister to ourselves, through the sharing of our talents, gifts, and resources.

***We hold ourselves accountable before God for this mission statement.***

**Music for the Season** – Need a little music for your Lenten journey? Check out the Spotify playlist created by A Sanctified Art! [www.uccmanhattan.org/lent](http://www.uccmanhattan.org/lent)

**A Place for You** – “No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.” At some point in your journey, you may discover that you are feeling a pull to deepen your commitment to our faith community. You may be wondering, “Hey, how do I become a member of this congregation?”

If you're feeling a tug to consider membership, we'd love to explore that with you. We plan to welcome a group of new members on March 30th. You can reach out directly to the church office to express your interest. And if that date doesn't work for you, we can be flexible! Learn more about what membership means on our website: [uccmanhattan.org/join](http://uccmanhattan.org/join).

**Prayer Chain** – Did you know we have an e-mail prayer chain? You are invited to join by contacting [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org). The prayer chain is used to share joys and concerns from our members and friends.



**Easter Lilies** will be ordered to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. If you would like to order a lily, please complete this form and return it to the church office along with your payment of **\$15.00** for each lily. If paying online at [uccmanhattan.org/giving](http://uccmanhattan.org/giving), please “add a message” and indicate the payment is for an Easter lily. (*Pollen is removed before placing lily in sanctuary.*)



In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Appreciation of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: First Congregational UCC  
Place in the offering plate or mail to: 700 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan KS 66502



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

everything [in] between faith & works

## Wildfire

I can picture it—salty sweat, accumulating in her bangs. The scent of toasted sesame seeds, crushed oregano, sumac, and cumin. Flour on her hands, painting streaks of white in her hair when she ties it back. The sweet date she samples—the way it stretches and clings to the back of her teeth, leaving the taste of honey in her mouth.

I can picture Martha in that kitchen, plating meals, eager to see their eyes close. Their heads nod. To hear the swell of approval that rises from their lips. And I can picture her sister. Brows scrunched. Fingers fidgeting, wishing for a pen, for paper, for a way to write it down. I can see her mouth part like a fish in the air, questions forming and reforming on her curious lips. I can see her lean in, knees tucked, eyes bright. I can see her imagining the world he dreamed of.

And I can picture how,

for generations, this story of two brazen women in scripture, a story of two women so close to Jesus, may have felt like an untamed wildfire. I can picture the way we put these women in boxes. I can imagine how people saw their full hearts, their untamed energy, and decided to label that as good and bad, better and worse. I can imagine how Martha's questions were interpreted as nagging, or the interruption interpreted as needy.

I can picture how it happened,

but what if it was all more beautiful than that? What if these sisters discovered a ministry of cooking? What if they discovered the faithfulness of learning, the kind of friendship that allows you to ask questions, or something in between?

I can imagine it. Can you?

## THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

everything [in] between **faith & works**

Cover art “Mary & Martha” by Lauren Wright Pittman

A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Inspired by Luke 10:38-42

*Digital painting*



everything  
[in] between  
faith & works

### From the artist:

Growing up, I felt I had to decide whether I was a Mary or a Martha. I never identified with Martha because the culturally-prescribed roles of a woman were my weakness, and I didn't identify with Mary either because she seemed more earnest than I felt.

Diving into the Greek of this text helped me work through my very well-worn opinions to find some nuance. Martha's work was not limited to cooking and cleaning; the Greek word used for her many tasks is *διακονία* which also means “service, ministering, and promoting religion.”<sup>1</sup> With this layered meaning in mind, it is clear to me that Jesus' response is not about Martha's ministry, but her preoccupation with Mary.

I think the most pivotal shift in translation is found in v. 42 where it is often translated, “Mary has chosen the better part.” When you look at the Greek, however, it can also be translated as, “a good portion” or “a useful share.”<sup>2</sup> In light of this, I believe Jesus is not offering a value judgment between them, but assuaging Martha's worry by affirming that Mary is doing a good portion of the work too.

Mary sits at the feet of Jesus, a place that was reserved for men. I wonder if Martha was concerned about what might happen to Mary for being out of “her place.” Jesus' response is radical because he affirms she has chosen a good portion of the work, and even though she is not where she is expected to be, no one can take that away from her. Jesus protects her right to assume the position of a disciple.

In this image, Mary eagerly reaches toward Jesus. Her clothing is patterned with mustard seeds and flowers because her faith may seem small, but her boundary-breaking faithfulness will nurture her faith to grow beyond what seems possible. Martha reaches toward Mary to pull her into more “appropriate” work. Martha's dress is patterned with open hands to image her vital ministry of welcome, service, and cultivating space for Jesus' message to take root. I imaged Jesus equally affirming both Mary and Martha's lived-out faiths. He is green, the combination of Mary and Martha's colors (yellow + blue), showing that he embodies the integration of both faith and works.

<sup>1</sup> [blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g1248/kjv/tr/0-1/](http://blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g1248/kjv/tr/0-1/)

<sup>2</sup> Strong's Greek Lexicon, G18 and G3310.



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The Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor  
Lisa Tatonetti, Moderator  
Sue Zschoche, Pastoral Associate  
Brandy McDonald, Director of Children's Ministries  
Sandy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

Gretchen Lewis, Music Coordinator  
Mary Ellen Sutton, Organist  
Alicia Santee-Davis, Pianist  
Brent Maner, Treasurer  
Jeff Keller, Financial Secretary  
Campus Pastor, vacant

**One Great Hour of Sharing: March 30** – One Great Hour of Sharing® (OGHS) is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. This year the theme is Be the Light and the offering will be on Sunday, March 30.

For over 75 years, the OGHS offering has been helping bring God’s hope and healing to hurting people domestically and around the world. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, and in our own communities. When man-made or natural disasters strike, love responds. Not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, Love remains.

Thank you for supporting One Great Hour of Sharing for over 75 years. You continue to be light in places that need it.

## SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD SECURITY.

Orfelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Orfelina doesn't just *work* with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light.

**Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.**



*You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine!  
— Matthew 5:14-15*