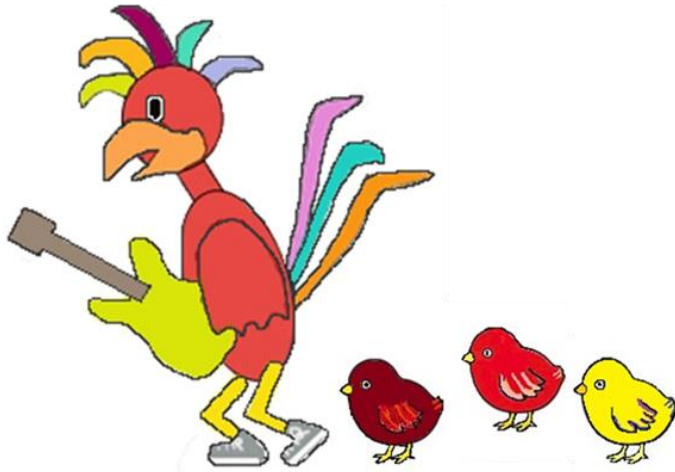


**It's Saturday**



# **Let's Do Church!**

**WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

April 29, 2023

4:30 p.m.

**BE THE CHURCH**

**Fight for the powerless.**

**Learning from the Early Church**

*“Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person’s need was met.”*

Acts 2:43-45

## OUR STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We are:

PROGRESSIVELY UNTRADITIONAL: 21st century minds in a 1717 Meetinghouse!

**Embrace diversity.**

JOYOUSLY INCLUSIVE: Radically open and affirming, all ages, races, gender and sexual orientation, everyone is welcome exactly as you are.

EXPRESSLY “ON THE WAY”: Faith is a journey. Journey with us!

COMMITTEDLY IN THE COMMUNITY: In helping others, we become our true selves.

## GOD GATHERS US



\*OPENING SONG *Down to the River to Pray*

**As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!**

**O sisters, let's go down,  
Let's go down, come on down  
O sisters, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!**

**O brothers, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Oh, brothers, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!**

**O sinners, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O sinners, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray**

WELCOME

*One: Welcome home, whether this is your first visit or you have been here for years. We are glad you are here with us today whether joining us online or in person. Hello, I'm Pastor Christie, and here is Pastor Reed, and we have John Williams as our guest musician and together we are*

**All: ONE diverse community**

**Growing up in faith**

**Reaching out in love**

*One: It is good when God's people are together here, and so we can rejoice, because,*

**All: It's Saturday, Let's do church!**



CALL TO WORSHIP

We are different people:

**Each one of us is unique.**

We look different, sound different,

**Think different thoughts,**

Hold different opinions,

**Feel different opinions,**

Feel different emotions.

**God gathers all of us together—with all our differences, quirks, all our gifts and challenges—to break bread, sing songs, open our hearts to prayer and share in devotion to the One who unites and transforms us.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**God, you touch our lives with mystery and hope. We come to this place today, ready to see your power working through us. Help us to be open to your Word, and to answer your call among us. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, we acknowledge and confess in your presence the smallness of our love, the narrowness of our concern, the denial of our true humanity. Through our careless hands have slipped opportunities not taken, people not cared for, days not celebrated. We are sorry for the ways of our unfaithfulness and ask for reassurance and forgiveness.**

**WORDS OF AFFIRMATION**

**This is the good news in Jesus Christ: God loves us more that we love ourselves. God set us free to love others. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Forgive often.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (we will sing this in echo fashion)**

**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 all our sins...**

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

Unison:

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory**

Echo:

**Forever..... and ever....**

**Our Father... .who art in Heaven... .hallowed be thy name.**

**A TIME OF PRAYER**



A TIME FOR CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

A SONG OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS

*Text to Give instructions are on page 10.*

Care for the poor.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

**THE BREAD OF LIFE  
AND THE CUP OF NEW BEGINNINGS  
ARE SHARED**



(Our service of communion is open to all seeking Christ's presence.  
Whether children receive the elements we leave to their parents' discretion.)

We shall be receiving communion by the ancient practice of intinction.

Come forward, take a piece of the bread, dip it in the cup,  
and consume it on the way back to your seat.

INVITATION

One: Because there is one bread, we who are many make one body,

**All: for we all partake of the one bread.**

One: In Christ, God breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves,  
and divide us from one another.

**All: We are the body of Christ.**

One: On the day of his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road to  
Emmaus, but they did not recognize him. Later while he was at the table with  
them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes

were opened, and they recognized him.

**All: May we open our eyes and recognize Christ together as we celebrate communion today.**

**All: Let us break bread together.**



#### PRAYER OF COMMUNION

**From the first day to the last, O God, you are generous and kind, filling the world with mercy's bread, pouring the gift of mercy's joy. You give us gifts too generous to count; our hearts overflow when we remember you. Even in death, life abounds. And so we praise you. And now, with grateful hearts, we remember Jesus. When all seems lost, when we are stuck in shame, when nothing we try resurrects our fading hope, he comes to us; he brings the morning light. He tells us where to cast our nets. The catch is abundant; our nets are full. He knows we are always hungry, he feeds us hope.**

**It is always this way with him—food and pardon, mercy and love. Amen.**

#### DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

(We offer a covid-safe communion cup and wafer system of grape juice and cracker.)

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to those sitting around him, saying, *“take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”* In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: *“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”*

#### UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith. Amen.**

*The children and teachers may now go over to Jenkins Hall for Saturday School.*

**THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED**



SPECIAL SONG

Lovely Day

Bill Withers



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Acts 2:42-47

MEDITATION

*Lessons From the Early Church*

Rev. Christie Burns

### GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG#386

*We are One in the Spirit*

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
and we pray that all unity will one day be restored:**

#### ***Refrain***

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:**

#### ***Refrain***

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each other's pride:**

**Refrain**

WORDS OF SENDING

The grace Christ attend you.  
The love of God surround you  
And the Holy Spirit keep you.  
**Amen.**



SONG OF SENDING

Go In Peace

Rob Leveridge

**Go in peace**  
**Go in kindness**  
**Go in love**  
**Go in faith**  
**Leave the day**  
**The day behind us**  
**Day is done**  
**Go in grace**  
**Let us go**  
**Into the dark**  
**Not afraid**  
**Not alone**  
**Let us hope**  
**By some good pleasure**  
**Safely to**  
**Arrive at home**  
**Let us hope**  
**By some good pleasure**  
**Safely to**  
**Arrive at home.**





## **WE ARE GLAD YOU WORSHIPPED WITH US TODAY!**

All people, young and old and in-between, are lifted up wherever they are on the journey. We look forward to worshipping with you again soon!

Pastors Christie Burns and Reed Baer

Our "Saturday School" is underway, a special class for our youngsters, held over in Jenkins Hall, led by Pastor Reed and an adult lay teacher/volunteer, during the last 20 minutes of the service. Interested in joining in as a teacher or an extra pair of hands, speak to Reed after church.

Christie holds coffee hours are Mondays at 11:30 am at Bread and Roses, Main Street, Hyannis.



by recycling this bulletin.

### **Text to Give!**

West Parish is now accepting donations via text! It's easy:

1. Text 866-593-7761 (the give-by-text number for West Parish) and in the body of the message enter the amount you wish to donate and send.
2. You will receive a registration link. Click on it and enter your contact and payment information, and then press "Process."
3. After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text and receipt via email.

You only need to register and set up your payment information once.

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.

Add "West Parish Give by Text" as a contact on your phone to make it even easier!

### **Church Staff**

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher  
Donna Murphy, Music Director  
Kristen Lind, Family School Director  
Wendy Northcross, Council Chair

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor  
Susan McEwen, Office Administrator  
Chris Haven, Sexton  
Bobbie Jordan, Deacons Chair

Tel 508-362-4445

Box 219, West Barnstable, MA 02668

contact@westparish.org

[www.westparish.org](http://www.westparish.org)

### Week of April 29, 2023

<b>Saturday</b>	4/29/23	4:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sunday</b>	4/30/23	10:00 am	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	5/1/23	11:30 am 5:00 pm	Christie's Coffee Hours @ Bread + Roses AA (J)
<b>Tuesday</b>	5/2/23	9:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:15 pm	FS Science (J) FS Science (J) Music Lessons (M) AA (J) Handbells (M)
<b>Wednesday</b>	5/3/23	9:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	FS Science (J) FS Science (J) Bible Study (G & Z) AA (J) WITS @ 8 Earl Rd., E. Sandwich
<b>Thursday</b>	5/4/23	8:30 am-3 pm 5:00 pm	FS Conferences (G) AA (J)
<b>Friday</b>	5/5/23	8:30 am-3 pm 9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	FS Conferences (G) FS Science (J) FS Science (J) Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
<b>Saturday</b>	5/6/23	4:30 pm	Worship

**Key:** FS = Family School; G = Guild Room; J = Jenkins Hall; M = Meetinghouse; Z = Zoom

# BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment.*

Care for the poor.

**Forgive often.**

**Reject racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

**Love God.**

**Enjoy this life.**

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

