

Village Church in Wellesley

Congregational † United Church of Christ



10:00am Worship † March 17, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 17, 2024

10:00 AM

What a blessing it is to have you here today!

Today's hymns may be found in the New Century (black) hymnal, except where noted.

**Please stand as you are able.*

*For families who wish to be together in a child-centered space,
the service is livestreamed into the Family Worship Room,
located just outside the Sanctuary through the exit on the piano side.*

*Please use this QR code to register your presence →
with our church check-in page.*



PRELUDE

"Berceuse, Op. 24, No. 19"
Kristjon Imperio - Organ

Louis Vierne

WELCOME AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Stacy Swain

***OPENING HYMN NO. 278 "Creator God, Creating Still"**

Children are invited to gather on the chancel steps during the last verse.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Michaela McDonald

*All Children may proceed to Children's Church.
Parents, please see page 5 for pick-up information.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Martha Schick

Holy One, you have promised us over and over again that you are with us.

We confess that we do not always act accordingly.

We doubt the promise of your presence.

We participate in small unkindnesses and deep injustices.

We lose our way.

Forgive us, God. Forgive us when we forget we are your people.

[use this time for your own silent prayers of confession]

We ask not only for forgiveness, but for signs upon signs that we still travel with you.

Be with us in our journeying, God. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE “Be Still and Know That I Am God”

*Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

Please stand as you are able and share a greeting of peace with one another.

CHORAL ANTHEM “He Looked Beyond My Fault” *arr. Mark Hayes*
Sanctuary Choir; Kevin McDonald – Conductor; Kristjon Imperio – Piano
Sara Patashnick - Flute

*Amazing grace shall always be my song of praise!
For it was grace that bought my liberty.
I do not know just why He came to love me so.
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.*

*I shall forever lift my eyes to Calvary.
To view the cross where Jesus died for me.
How marvelous the grace that caught my falling soul.
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.*

SCRIPTURE John 3:1-12

SERMON “You should know better” Rev. Stacy Swain

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 292 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martha Schick

**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 trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CALL TO OFFERING

Megan Strouse

*We are grateful for your gifts to God in support of the ministries
of Village Church in Wellesley. Checks may be placed
in the offering plate at the front or rear of the church.
You may donate online using this QR code.
Thank you for your generosity.*

To give:



Offertory

“Agnus Dei” from Missa Kenya

Paul Basler

Sanctuary Choir; Dr. Kevin McDonald – Conductor; Kristjon Imperio – Piano
Sara Patashnick - Flute

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, a
nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, grant us peace.

*Doxology

Abernethy version

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen.**

COMMON LIFE

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 1** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

***INVITATION TO FELLOWSHIP & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Prayer" from *Jewish Life*
Kristjon Imperio - Piano

Ernest Bloch

Please be seated for the postlude.

Please hold your applause during Lent.

We look forward to applauding the Resurrection!

†††

*ALL ARE INVITED to Village Common to enjoy coffee and refreshments.
Childcare will be available in the Family Worship Room.*

*VISITORS - We're glad you are here!
Please introduce yourself to a pastor near the Welcome sign.
Questions? Ask anyone – we love to talk about our church.*

*PARENTS - Children Kindergarten and younger may be picked up in the PreK/K room on the
2nd floor. Grades 1-5 will meet parents on the 2nd floor.*

TODAY

- 9:00am** **Chapel Worship**, *Chapel and Livestream*, Megan Strouse, preaching;
Rev. Martha Schick
- 10:00am** **Sanctuary Worship**, *Sanctuary and Livestream*, Rev. Stacy Swain,
preaching; Rev. Martha Schick; Megan Strouse
Childcare, *Family Worship Room*
Children's Church, *Sanctuary, pick up Upper Level*
Middle School Youth Group, *Youth Room*, Rev. Pam Emslie
Lenten Group, *Parlor*, Rev. Diane Anderson
- 10:50-11:20am** **Village Children's Choir**, *Upper Level*
- 11:15am** **Coffee and Fellowship**, *Village Common*
Village Ringers Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*, Kristjon Imperio
- 11:30am** **Lenten Group**, *Parlor*, Megan Strouse
- 5:00pm** **Worship Service**, *Village Church in Weston*, Megan Strouse
- 7:00pm** **High School Youth Group**, Rev. Pam Emslie

Reflection on Our Lenten Music

by Kristjon Imperio

Each Lent, I ponder personal and collective approaches to meaningfully observe the season within music ministry. This typically involves reducing something from common musical output while not detracting from purposeful offerings in worship. The intention is never to make scarce or bare but to appreciate the fullness and beauty of what may be forgotten in the less.

Postlude music for Lent 2024 will continue to be presented from the piano, while featuring music and musical traditions that the organ, in its fullness, cannot offer in full authenticity. I draw particular attention to three of these offerings.

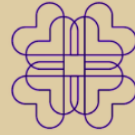
As part of Black History Month, the spirituals “Pilgrim Song” and “Deep River”, arranged by English black composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, were presented on February 18th and 25th – highlighting the contribution of the Spiritual as a globally-recognized genre.

Zayin Adar (ז' אדר), the date recognized by the Jewish community as the birth and death anniversary of Moses, falls on March 17th this year. I present as musical offering Jewish composer Ernest Bloch’s “Prayer” of his suite From Jewish Life – recognizing prayer as a unifying act of personal and collective worship within and between faith traditions.

I trust that this season's approach will continue to encourage each of us to appreciate the beautiful fullness of the forgotten less, while bringing attention to diverse traditions that share a common, unified message of hope. I look forward to returning the fullness that the pipe organ offers as we celebrate the glory of Christ's resurrection on Easter.

HOLY WEEK

2024



VILLAGE CHURCH



PALM SUNDAY

March 24

10am Wellesley & 5pm Weston



MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28

7pm Wellesley & 7:30pm Weston



GOOD FRIDAY

March 29

7pm Wellesley



EASTER SUNDAY

March 31

Wellesley

6:15am

Bonfire Vigil

7am

Sunrise Worship

7:45am

Sunrise Breakfast

9am

Celebration Worship I

10am

Easter Egg Hunt

Fellowship Hour

11am

Celebration Worship II

Services in Wellesley Livestreamed, and Weston on Zoom.
Details at: wellesleyvillagechurch.org

FEBRUARY 2024: A MONTH LIKE NO OTHER

Whether you attend the Historic Charles Street A.M.E., or the Congregational Church in Weston, or Village Church in Wellesley, there has been no month in any year quite like this past February.

The reasons are easy to name. February 28th, the congregation at Charles Street was able to pay off and retire its mortgage. And on the 11th, members present at each of the Congregational Churches in Wellesley and Weston decided by unanimous vote to formally join together, merging if you will, but with each keeping its own sense of mission and identity.

Three events in the same month. Each one imagined years ago and led by a few; all of them supported and nurtured by many, and all of them inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Each event would make any month important. Together they make February 2024 very unusual, perhaps even unique.

The story about this unusual month could be told by one author. Better, however, will be to gather it from every person possible in each of the three churches. It will be a record of the history with our individual “voices”.

You are invited to write your own story about how these events have affected your life and faith. You might tell about how and why you supported any or all of the efforts over the past five years, or why you didn't. Sharing your perspective of how you see the future will give depth to the entire picture. And, of course, any prayers you have said as time has passed, or those you might be saying now, will keep our history reminded that the Spirit has been with our churches all along.

This invitation will extend through March. At its end, written contributions will be compiled and bound. Plans for sharing it are still being worked out.

Please write your thoughts in any way you choose; pen and paper will work, and special sheets will be available here at church. If you send it by post, please address it to Village Church, in care of the Historian, 2 Central St., Wellesley, MA 02482.

You can also use email, sending it to: Historian@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

February 2024 has been a month like no other. When told by lots of us, this will continue a splendid, expansive story.

Brad Harding, Village Church Historian

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT AND SERVE

Please see Enews or website for details.

To receive our weekly E-news, contact Chris Toppin at: christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

Wednesdays At The Well *Every Wednesday, 8:30am-noon in the Wellesley Chapel*

Come, sit in the beauty of the Chapel, light candles in the Cloister, walk the Labyrinth, pray with Pastor Stacy. Drink deeply from the wellspring of grace and love that you will find here. Cathy Liddell will be playing her lute this Wednesday, March 13 from 9-10am.

Tuesday Bible Study: Exploring the New Testament – *Begins March 19, 8:30-9:30am*

Come explore the New Testament using the Exploring the Bible Series written by Rev. Ann Robertson. This accessible, introductory study welcomes all. No previous study or biblical literacy is needed. If you are interested, please reach out to stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org. This series runs 6 weeks in person and online.

Deacon Ministries and Council Retreat

Saturday, March 23 at WVC, 9am-12pm

Worship, Community, Welcome, Service and Family Life Deacons (both returning deacons and newly serving) and Church Council members, are invited to gather together for a morning retreat on March 23rd. Together we will: turn to our vision, mission and values as we ground our leadership in these key aspects of who we are; delve into our church governance structure including how the deacon ministries and Church Council support the body of Christ that is Village Church; and explore how we might live into some key opportunities that have been discerned by Council.

Come to the Garden - a Holy Saturday Bible Study

Saturday, March 30, 9am, Chancel

Would you like to help turn our chancel into a garden for Easter? We will gather to arrange the flowers in preparation for Easter Sunday. After we turn the chancel into a garden, we will sit down together in it to study and reflect on the different ways that the Gospel writers share the story of Jesus resurrection. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

Village Church Moms

Thursday, April 4th at 7:00-8:30 pm

MOMS, please come join us!!! We are a "come when you can" kind of group, welcoming moms of all ages for monthly gatherings, usually in someone's home for wine, dessert and conversation. It is a great way to meet other moms at our church. This gathering will take place at the home of Kerry Evans 157 Harding Street, Medfield, MA 02052. Contact Meg Steere: megsteere@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

We need hosts for our May and June gatherings, please reach out to Meg if you are able to do so.

Empty Nesters+Walking Group

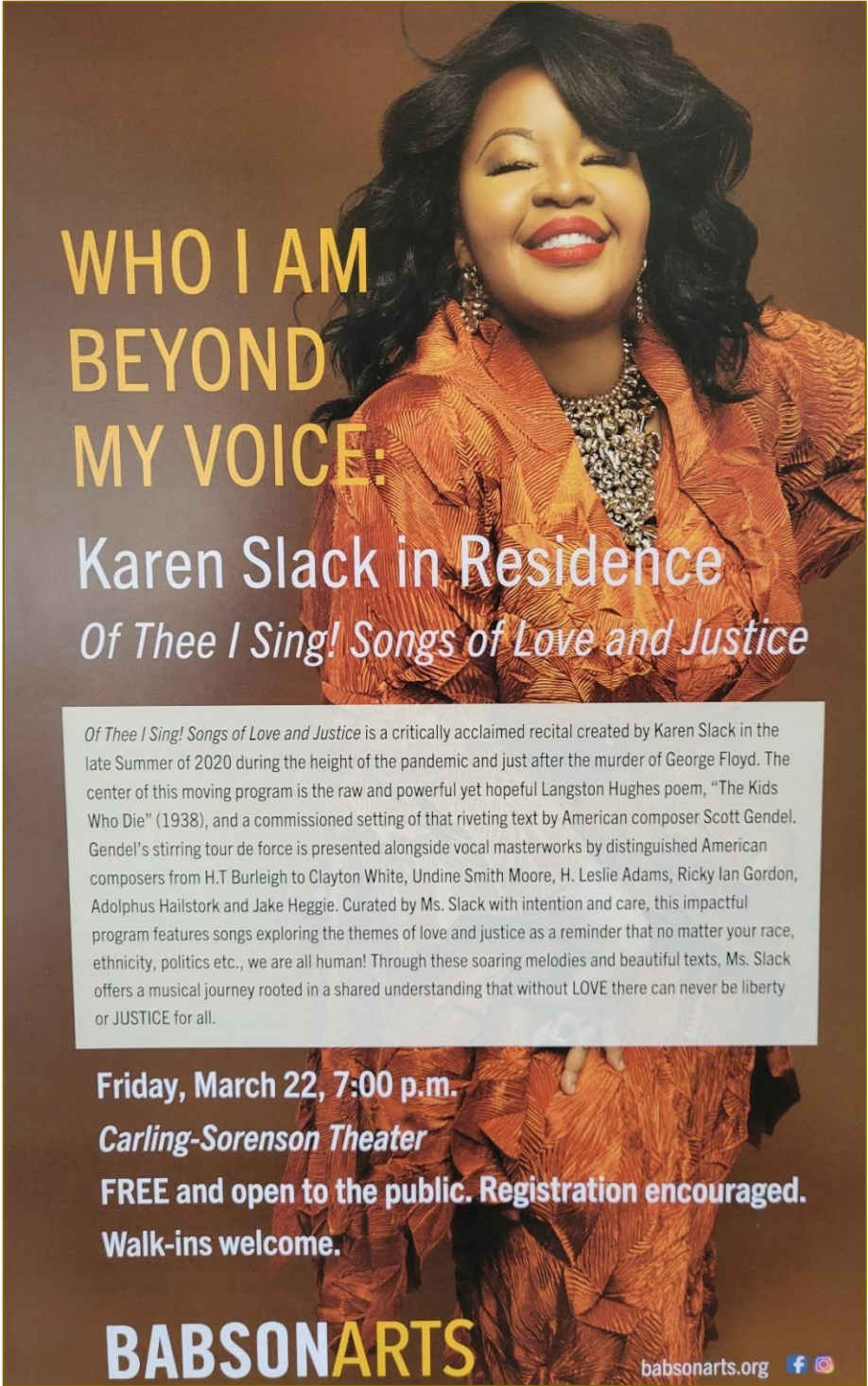
Monday mornings, 9:30-10:30am, Elm Bank Reservation



As we enter Lent and our study of our relationship with the Earth, come join the Empty Nesters+ as we experience a tiny bit of God's extravagant creation by the Charles River at Elm Bank Reservation. All are welcome.

"What, no coffee!?"

Be not dismayed. Fellowship hour after the 10:00 worship service still includes delicious fresh coffee. To enhance the ease of access, it has been moved to its own table near the kitchen in Village Common.



WHO I AM BEYOND MY VOICE:

Karen Slack in Residence

Of Thee I Sing! Songs of Love and Justice

Of Thee I Sing! Songs of Love and Justice is a critically acclaimed recital created by Karen Slack in the late Summer of 2020 during the height of the pandemic and just after the murder of George Floyd. The center of this moving program is the raw and powerful yet hopeful Langston Hughes poem, "The Kids Who Die" (1938), and a commissioned setting of that riveting text by American composer Scott Gendel. Gendel's stirring tour de force is presented alongside vocal masterworks by distinguished American composers from H.T. Burleigh to Clayton White, Undine Smith Moore, H. Leslie Adams, Ricky Ian Gordon, Adolphus Hailstork and Jake Heggie. Curated by Ms. Slack with intention and care, this impactful program features songs exploring the themes of love and justice as a reminder that no matter your race, ethnicity, politics etc., we are all human! Through these soaring melodies and beautiful texts, Ms. Slack offers a musical journey rooted in a shared understanding that without LOVE there can never be liberty or JUSTICE for all.

Friday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.

Carling-Sorenson Theater

FREE and open to the public. Registration encouraged.

Walk-ins welcome.

BABSONARTS

babsonarts.org



LAY LEADERSHIP

Joe Morray – Moderator

Candace Sutcliffe– Vice Moderator

Kathy Schleyer – Immediate Past Moderator

PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter,
Sr. Pastor sarah@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

The Rev. Pam Emslie, Assoc. Pastor, Youth
Ministry pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

The Rev. Stacy Swain, Assoc. Pastor,
Congregational Care and Engagement
stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

PASTORAL RESIDENTS

The Rev. Martha Schick, 2nd Year
martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Megan Strouse, 1st Year
meganS@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Michaela McDonald – Children's Ministry
michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Jade Hargrave
Youth Ministry Support & Development
jade@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Dr. Kevin McDonald
Director of Music & Youth Music
kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Kristjon Imperio
Organist & Assistant Director of Music
kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Virginia Bailey – Chapel Worship Musician
virginiaebailey@gmail.com

Meg Sweeting – Church Administrator
meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Emilio Del Vecchio –Facilities Manager
facilities@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Christine Toppin – Communications
christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Sharon Funk – Administrative Assistant
sharon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Marina Berga – Church Accountant
marina@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

At Wellesley Village Church, we believe in a vision for God's Beloved Community where all people are welcomed and enthusiastically affirmed, as well as honored and celebrated as made in God's holy image. This intentional inclusivity welcomes people of all races, sexual orientations, gender identities/expressions, abilities, family dynamics and configurations, and so much more. We recognize that our world and our church community do not always live into this vision, and yet as a church, we are continually working to widen our welcome and witness. If you have suggestions for how we can better welcome you and those you love, please reach out to Rev. Martha Schick at: martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.



Hearing Assistance Available

Induction loop systems are available in the Chapel and in the Narthex section of the Sanctuary. Hearing devices may be turned to the "T" setting. Those without devices may request a loop receiver with earphones.

For information, please visit our website at:

wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Scan with smartphone →

Or speak to any one of us!

2 Central Street,
Wellesley, MA 02482

Church Office & Directory: 781-235-1988

Urgent Pastoral Care Cell: 781-591-7451



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WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

Congregational • United Church of Christ

Choose Love. Make it Real.

