

## ***Lent.***

***“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”*** Psalm 51

These words from the Psalmist capture the essence of the period of 40 days before Easter known as Lent in which we revisit and renew our baptismal calling to follow Jesus. During Lent we are invited to be cleansed once more and set free to follow Jesus into the center of love, service and healing.

Each week the scripture depicts Jesus engaging those whose desire for a “clean heart and a right spirit,” is strong even when they don’t necessarily have the words to articulate that desire. Even then, Jesus seems to know what their hearts yearn for most. It is for them – and us – a movement towards seeing things anew. It is the journey towards experiencing the full power and glory that bursts forth on Easter morn!



**Immanuel United Church of Christ Welcomes You!**

**March 22, 2020 9:00 a.m. Worship**

## WELCOME

## SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Comment with a word of peace and greeting.

Add an emoji, gif of your greeting

## CENTERING

We gather by the cross of forgiveness.

We gather by the waters of new life.

We gather by the light of guidance.

We gather by God's grace.

We gather remembering we are beloved yet yearning for the fullness of who God designed us to be. Together we pray,

**Patient God, too often we try to find our way without you only to find ourselves lost in the familiar.**

**May this season of Lent strengthen us, prepare us, and renew us so that we might walk closer to you and become trustworthy sojourners to one another.**

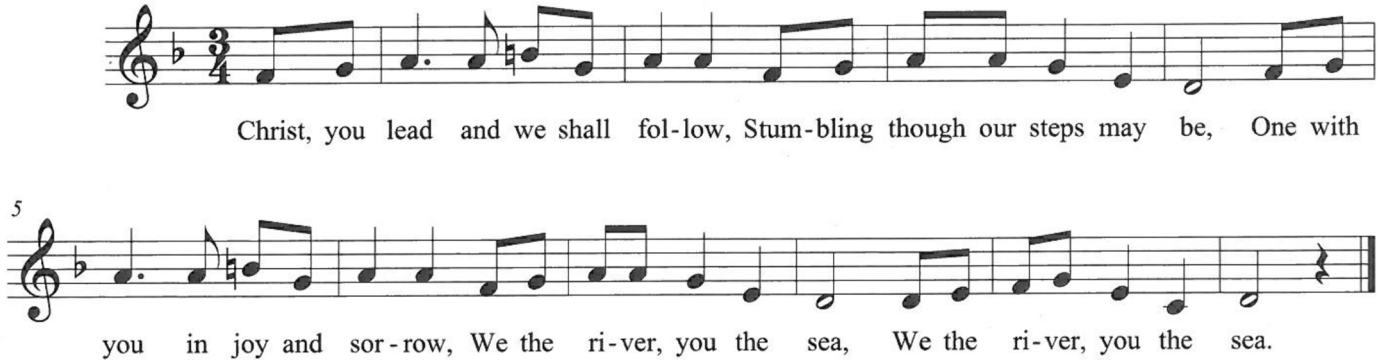
**We silently name that which holds us back from fully following Jesus...**

*Silence*

Trusting, O God, in your attentiveness and grace, we offer our whole selves to your healing of our world. **AMEN.**

Soloist: We remember truth once spoken, love passed on through act and word;  
Every person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord.

***Congregation joins in singing the refrain:***



Christ, you lead and we shall fol-low, Stum-bling though our steps may be, One with

5  
you in joy and sor-row, We the ri-ver, you the sea, We the ri-ver, you the sea.

Soloist: God of all our fear and sorrow, God who lives beyond our death, hold us  
close through each tomorrow love as near as ev'ry breath

**Refrain: Christ you lead and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps  
may be, One with you in joy and sorrow, We the river, you the sea.**



## CHILDREN'S CHAT



## HISTORICAL WITNESS OF OUR FAITH

**John 11:1-45** *The Message, adapted.*

A man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. This was the same Mary who massaged the Lord's feet with aromatic oils and then wiped them with her hair. It was her brother Lazarus who was sick. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Master, the one you love so very much is sick."

When Jesus got the message, he said, "This sickness is not fatal. It will become an occasion to show God's glory by glorifying God's Son."

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, but oddly, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed on where he was for two more days. After the two days, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea." The disciples challenged this decision but Jesus insisted. Lazarus died. We must go.

When Jesus finally got there, he found Lazarus already four days dead. There were many who were visiting with Martha and Mary, offering their condolences. Martha heard Jesus was on his way and went to meet him. Mary remained in the house.

Upon meeting Jesus Martha says, "Master, if you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now, I know that whatever you ask God he will give you."

Jesus said, "Your brother will be raised up."

Martha replied, "I know that he will be raised up in the resurrection at the end of time."

"You don't have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Master. All along I have believed that you are the Messiah, the Son of God who comes into the world."

After saying this, she went to her sister Mary and whispered in her ear, "The Teacher is here."

Mary ran to meet Jesus. She fell at his feet, "Master, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her sobbing and others too, a deep anger welled up within him. He said, "Where did you put him?"

"Master, come and see," they said. Now Jesus wept.

Some commented, "Look how deeply he loved him."

Others among them said, "Well, if he loved him so much, why didn't he do something to keep him from dying? After all, he opened the eyes of a blind man."

They went to the place where Lazarus body lay....the stench 3 days dead strong.

Remove the stone Jesus orders. They do as he instructed. Following a prayer to God Jesus says – Lazarus Come out!

He did. They unwrapped...and with that more came to believe.

# OFFERING OUR GIFTS


CHANGING SEASONS

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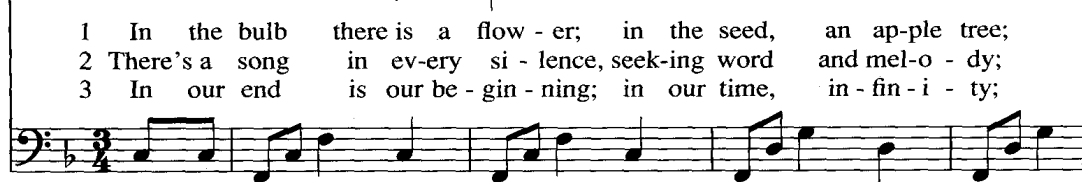
## In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985


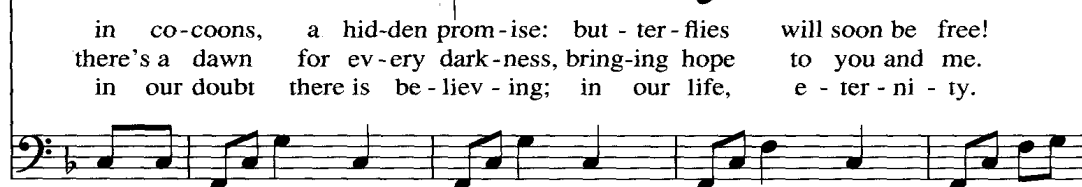
*Unison*




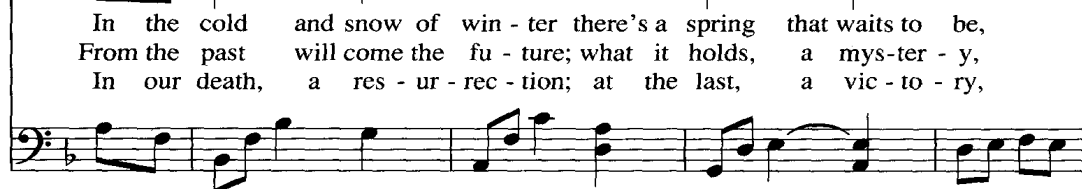
1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap-ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev-ery si - lence, seek-ing word and mel-o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



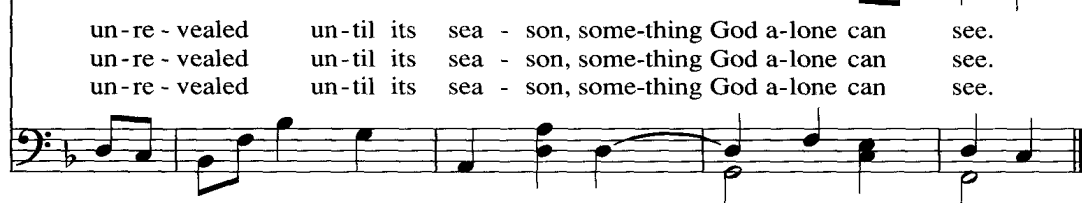
in co-coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn for ev-ery dark - ness, bring-ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys-ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un-re - vealed un-til its sea - son, some-thing God a-lone can see.  
un-re - vealed un-til its sea - son, some-thing God a-lone can see.  
un-re - vealed un-til its sea - son, some-thing God a-lone can see.



*Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.*

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.  
Natalie Sleeth, 1985

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *offered by Jody Widing*

### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

### PRAYER RESPONSE *Lord Listen To Your Children Praying*



Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Lord, send your Spir - it in this place; Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a 4/4 time signature. The second system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a 4/4 time signature. The third system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

### BENEDICTION

# SENDING HYMN

## Will You Come and Follow Me

### *The Summons*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
 your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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## COMMISSION

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE