



BARRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent
Via Zoom and YouTube Service
Pastor Margaret Keyser, preaching

REFLECTION

“This is God’s universe, and he is the master gardener of all.
If we were to eliminate all colors in his garden,
Then what would be a rainbow with only one color?
Or a garden with only one kind of flower?

Why would the Creator create a vast assortment of plants, ethnicities, and animals,
if only one beast or seed is to dominate all of existence?” — Suzy Kassem

PRELUDE

Praeludium - S. Sechter

Deborah Page

GREETING & OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Margaret Keyser

CALL TO WORSHIP

Toni Brown

Leader: We have gathered in the presence of our Creator, Who sets before us the ways of life and death.

People: We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ, Who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship, that we may know its joy.

Leader: We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit, Who sustains us in trial and rejoicing.

People: In our Living and in our dying, we belong to God. In the shadow of God’s wings, we sing for joy. Let us worship God.

GATHERING HYMN (brown #92)

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou are all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.*

*Come, almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in perfect love.*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Toni Brown

**We confess, gracious God, that we are not worthy of Your love for us.
You speak to us through your word, telling us to love You and our neighbor as we love ourselves. To You we call for mercy, for we have failed You, and hardened our hearts. Forgive us now and give us renewed hearts and minds, through the grace of Jesus Christ.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Margaret Keyser

The Lord our God is merciful and full of compassion.

The Lord sees our hearts and hears our remorse.

I say to you, in the Name of Jesus Christ:

Your sins are forgiven.

Your faith has made you free.

Anyone who is in Christ Jesus is a new creation; the old has passed away.

All: Thanks be to God!

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Pastor Margaret Keyser

SONG WITH OUR CHILDREN (brown #580)

Jesus Loves the Little Children

*Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world,
Red and yellow, black, and white, they are precious in His sight-
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:9-15

Toni Brown

MUSICAL SELECTION

Forty Day and Forty Nights (verses 1& 2)

Toni Brown

*Forty days and forty nights Thou wast fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.*

*Shall not we thy sorrow share, and from earthly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer, glad with thee to suffer pain?*

SERMON

“The Spirit Sent Him Out Into The Desert!”

Pastor Margaret Keyser

HYMN (brown #406)

My Hope Is in the Lord

*My hope is in the Lord who have Himself for me,
And paid the price of all my sin at Calvary.*

Refrain:

*For me He died, for me He lives,
And everlasting life and light He freely gives.*

*And now for me He stands before the Father’s throne,
He shows His wounded hands, and names me as His own.*

Refrain:

PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Margaret Keyser

MUSICAL SELECTION

Forty Day and Forty Nights (verses 3& 4)

Toni Brown

*And if Satan, vexing sore, flesh or spirit should assail,
Thou, his vanquisher before, grant we may not fain nor fail.*

*Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by thy side;
That with thee we may appear at the eternal Easter tide. Amen.*

BENEDICTION

Pastor Margaret Keyser

CLOSING HYMN (brown #202)

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound-that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found was blind but now I see.*

*Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.*

*The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

POSTLUDE

Postlude - G. Tritant

Deborah Page

CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

Toni Brown

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Psalm 25:10 reminds us,

“All the paths of God are steadfast love and faithfulness
for those who keep God’s covenant and decrees.”
Our church’s ministries are extensions of God’s love
and faithfulness made possible through the generous giving

of our time, energy, and money.
With love let us offer our gifts to God.

You may donate or pay your pledge by visiting www.barrechurch.com or mail to:
Margaret Marshall, 169 Sunrise Ave, Barre, MA 01005

Please remember in your prayers the following members and friends, Carol Brandl, Neil Churchill, Lois Cooley, Charlie Fullam, Bess Difley, Shirley Lewis, Abby Hale, Eunice Morrison, Wilhelmina Piper, Debbie Robichaud, Max Snyder, those affected by Covid 19, and those who work for our community.

Please let us know if you have any prayer concerns or celebrations you would like to share with the congregation. Call the church, 978-355-4041 and leave a message or call Wendy, 978-928-5180.