



BARRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
February 28, 2021  
Second Sunday of Lent  
Via Zoom and YouTube Service  
Jim VanWert, preaching

REFLECTION

“We don’t inherit the earth from our ancestors,  
we borrow it from our children.” — David Brower

PRELUDE

*Prayer - S. Sechter*

Deborah Page

GREETING & OPENING PRAYER

Jim VanWert

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 22)

Steve Morrall

**People: Your mercy knows no limit, and Your love knows no depth.**

Leader: You hold out your hand and the afflicted are healed, and the poor are fed.

**People: Your benevolence is steadfast, and your promise is sure from generation to generation.**

**All: Glory and honor to God.**

GATHERING HYMN (brown #34)

*The God of Abraham Praise*

***The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above:***

***Ancient of everlasting days, And God of love.***

***Jehovah, great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed;***

***I bow and bless the sacred name, Forever blest.***

***The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;***

***“Hail Father, Son and Holy Ghost!” They ever cry.***

***Hail, Abraham’s God and mine! I join the heavenly lays;***

***All might and majesty are Thine, and endless praise. Amen.***

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Steve Morrall

**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. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jim VanWert

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!**

ANTHEM

*Standing on the Promises*

*Barre Congregational Virtual Choir*

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8:31-38

Steve Morrall

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

Jim VanWert

HYMN (brown #347)

*Be Still My Soul*

*Be still, my soul! The Lord is on thy side; bear patiently this cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul! thy best, thy heavenly Friend thro' thorny ways leads to joyful end.  
Be still, my soul! Thy God doth undertake to guide the future as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake;  
All my mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still my soul! The waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt  
below.  
Be still, my soul! The hour is hastening on when we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul! When change and tears are past, all sage and blessed we shall meet at last.*

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Jim VanWert

MUSICAL SELECTION *Forty Day and Forty Nights* (verses 3& 4)

Toni Brown

*And if Satan, vexing sore, flesh or spirit should assail,  
Thou, h is 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

Jim VanWert

CLOSING HYMN (brown #271)

*Standing on the Promises*

*Standing on the promises of Christ my King, Thro' eternal ages let His praises ring;  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,*

Refrain:

*Standing on the promises of god. Standing, Standing,  
Standing on the promises of god my Savior;  
Standing, Standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises I cannot fall, Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,*

Refrain:

POSTLUDE

*Postlude - G. Tritant*

Deborah Page

CELEBRATIONS, CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Morrall

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Let us move into God's love.  
Let us go in-between with God to offer our gifts.  
Let us give God our thanks in with our offerings.  
God will bless our gifts with His love so that we may  
share them with Our church and beyond.

You may donate or pay your pledge by visiting [www.barrechurch.com](http://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, the family of Lacey Charest, Crystal Isgro's sister, 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.