

**Welcome to Samuel UCC**  
**No matter where you are on life's journey,**  
**YOU**  
**are welcome here!**

- We are **REQUIRING** everyone wear a facemask. (*Children 3 years and younger would be exempt from the mask requirement.*)
- You may move about and greet one another during “The Passing of the Peace.” As always, be respectful of other’s comfort levels regarding touching.
- The offering plate will be at each entrance to the sanctuary.
- Congregational singing of hymns is permitted for those who have been fully vaccinated.
- At this time, we will not be having a formal indoor fellowship time after church, but you are invited to talk with each other after worship in the sanctuary or outside.
- Children are invited to stay in service for Children’s Time (called “*A Story for All Ages*”) and then join Sunday School.
- Children aged 3 and under are welcome to join our staffed and vaccinated Nursery in the fellowship hall.

Sunday March 20, 2022

*10am Samuel United Church of Christ*

**The Third Sunday of Lent**

*LARGE PRINT BULLETINS and hearing assistance devices are available.*

*\*indicates all who are comfortably able, please rise in body or spirit*

**Welcome & Gathering Music**

**Announcements**

**Mission Moment** - *Special Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing*

**Ringling of the Bells**

**Opening Words**      *(Adapted from Worship Design Studio "Enough"*  
*Resources)*

**Song and Procession**      *"Good Enough"*  
by Marcia McFee, Marsha Moors-Charles, and Chuck Bell

*During the song, the children and youth will bring the flowers on the window boxes and place them on the ladder by the alter. They may take their place at the front for Children's Time.*

**What in our lives do we dream about for tomorrow,  
void of sorrow?**

**Time spent regretting decisions of our yesterdays,  
mistakes we made?**

**Sometimes we get what we get, life disappoints us and yet,  
God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.**

**A Story for All Age – *Children’s Time with Melissa Harlow***

**\*Opening Hymn – “*There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy*”  
#23 NCH (*black*)**

# There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.*

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.  
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;  
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.  
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.



## **A Story for the Ages – *Luke 13: 1-9***

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'

He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.

**Response**

*“Doxology”*

*NCH #778 (black)*

**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.**

**Message –** *Pastor Jeff*

**Special Music –**

*Wade in the Water*  
*Performed by Penny Chou*

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**“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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”**

**\*Hymn**

*“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”*

*#485 NCH (black)*

# O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

485

George Matheson, 1882; alt.

Rom. 8:38-39; John 8:12

1 O Love that will not let me go,  
2 O Light that fol - lows all my way,  
3 O Joy that seeks me through my pain,  
4 O Cross that rais - es up my head,

I rest my wea - ry soul in you;  
to you I yield my flick - ering flame;  
to you I can - not close my heart;  
from you I dare not seek to flee;

I give you back the life I owe, that  
Re - new my spir - it's fee - ble ray, that  
I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and  
Life's glo - ries with - er and are dead, but

in your o - cean depths its flow may swell with ar - dor true.  
from your bril - liant sun - lit day it may new bright - ness claim.  
know the prom - ise is not vain that you will ne'er de - part.  
from the ground there blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.



# The Challenge and Blessing

## \*The Postlude

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**Liturgist: Penny Chou**

**Altar Flowers are placed by Tim Weaver**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **St Pat's Day Virtual Auction: We Raised \$8,740!!**

Thank you to Melissa Harlow and Keith Karau for their work on the St Pat's Habitat Auction. This year, we had 30 donors, who donated 77 items. And we raised \$8,470!!! WOW!! Thanks to everyone who gave their items or bid on an item.

#### **We're on Instagram! @samuelucc**

Find us on Instagram with our name: @samuelucc

#### **COVID Policies Update: Masks Still Required**

At the recent Consistory meeting, it was decided to continue to require masks during in person activities. We are watching the numbers and the news closely and will be addressing the issue every month.

## **Three Ancient Contexts of the New Testament: A Lenten Series**

**March 23, and 30th from 7-8:15pm on Zoom**

**Meeting ID: 814 2630 7845**

Rev. Dr. Ron Serino is currently the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Memphis and holds a PhD in Biblical Interpretation from Brite Divinity School (Texas Christian University), a M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary (NYC), and a B.A. from Emory University. His research uses critical race theory (critical whiteness studies) to explore the role of biblical interpretation in constructing race and sanctifying racial whiteness in early modern Britain and its American colonies. He previously worked with people experiencing homelessness in Maryland and with First Congregational UCC, St. Louis.

## **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Special Offering**

**Received on Sunday, March 27**

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

## Lent 2022: Good Enough

This Lenten Season we are using a resource from the Worship Design Studios to focus our attention on how we can affirm a faith that is blessed, regardless of where we find ourselves on the ladders the world wants us to climb. We will put away the lure of perfectionism and learn to lean into embracing the persons, the people, the community of faith as God has created us.



### **The Mission Statement of Samuel Church**

Samuel Church, gathered by Grace,  
Nourished by the Word,  
and Renewed by the Holy Spirit,  
is a welcoming, caring community of faith.

*In response to the gift of grace, and in affirmation of the inclusive love of Christ, we welcome all persons into our fellowship. We seek to be a congregation that includes persons of any race, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, marital status, faith understanding, mental and physical ability, and socio-economic background.*

*We welcome all to share fully in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship, rites and sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of the community called Samuel Church.*