



Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025



Gathering

Gathering Music (Prelude)

The Christ Light Enters

Words of Welcome and Threshold Moment

Call to Worship

Worship is a place to rest.

We breathe deeply here.

We still our aching bones.

We sit in the quiet.

We surround ourselves with music.

Worship is a place to rest.

Worship is a place to grow.

We listen for God's word.

We invite it to challenge us.

We lean in with curiosity.

We ask questions.

Worship is a place to grow.

So come into this space.

Come rest and grow here.

For where two or more are gathered,

God is always there.

Let us worship our gracious God.

Opening Song | Hymn of Promise, 707 UMH

Prayers of the People + The Prayer Jesus Taught

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Word in Music (Anthem)

We Listen for God's Voice

A Child Will Lead Them (Children's time with the pastor)

Call to confession

Prayer of confession

Holy God, There are days when we fail to rest.

We stretch ourselves too thin.

We say "yes" to every invitation.

We run a million miles a minute.

We ignore your command to rest.

There are also days when we fail to act.

We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.

We find excuses and justify our inaction.

God, forgive our imbalance.

Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.

Show us how to do the same. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

God's grace is deeper than the ocean. God's love is wider than the sky. We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson | Luke 13: 6-9 (NT P. 71)

Song of Response: "Beneath the Soil"

Words: Anna Strickland (2024) Tune: Azmon (57 UMH)

Message: Rest & Growth

We Respond to God's Lead

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who loves and tends to us like a gardener. We believe that like the trees, some seasons are for growth, and some seasons are for rest. Some days require pruning, and some require planting. Fortunately, we believe that our green-thumbed God sees us and cultivates the sweetest fruit.

So may we plant roots,
reach for the sky,
grow where we can,
and rest when we need,
for we believe there is holiness in the pruning
and in the planting. And we do not grow alone.
Thanks be to God, amen.

Giving our Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service & Witness
Invitations and Announcements



Collection of Offering (*scan QR code for online giving*)
Doxology | Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow, 95 UMH
Prayer of Dedication

We Go to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn | Take Time to be Human
Words: Chris Shelton, Tune Holiness (Take Time To Be Holy, 395)

Benediction
The Christ Light Leads us into the World
Postlude



A note to our guests: Thank you for being here!
Your presence created a once in a lifetime experience. To learn
more about our church, visit amumc.org. To receive our weekly
emails, prayer list, or monthly newsletter, scan the QR code to sign
up.

Join us next week, the 4th Sunday in Lent: lost & found (Luke 15: 1-7)

Worship Notes:

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Arnold Mills
United Methodist Church
690 Nate Whipple Highway
Cumberland, RI 02864
401-333-5203 — www.amumc.org



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 in 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.



Beneath the Soil

Azmon (O For a Thousand)

Beneath the soil in the dark
There's growth too slow to see
A transformation not displayed
In branches, fruit, and leaves

Remember when the world demands
More than you can produce
We each grow at a different pace
And growth starts in the roots

The rest and nurture we receive
Will turn to fruit in time
For God made us to grow and change
As toward the sky we climb

In every season of our lives
The Spirit is at work
To nurture us to bear good fruit
While rooted in the earth

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Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. It contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes.

here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It maintains the same musical notation and structure, with the vocal line in the upper staff and the accompaniment in the lower staff.

host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The third system of music concludes the piece. It features a final cadence in both the vocal and accompaniment parts, ending with a double bar line. The musical notation remains consistent with the previous systems.

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674
MUSIC: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

OLD 100th
LM

TAKE TIME TO BE HUMAN

Chris Shelton

HOLINESS
George C. Stebbins, 1846–1945



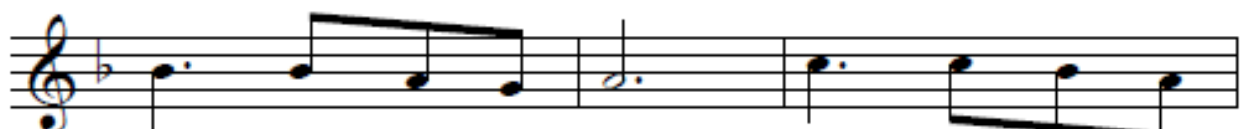
1. Take time to be hu - man; come, all who are
2. Take time to be hu - man; take time to take
3. Take time to be hu - man— what more could we
4. Take time to be hu - man; Christ comes as our



stressed. Seek joys that are sim - ple: play,
care. Our bod - ies are tem - ples; God's
be? Take time to re - mem - ber, God
guide, shows strength by his weak - ness, shuns



won - der, and rest. Let go of false meas - ures;
im - age we bear. Heart, mind, skin, and sin - ew,
has set us free: free from Phar - aoh's la - bors,
priv - 'lege and pride. Up - lift - ing the low - ly—



serve God and not wealth; find life's tru - est
each wound and each scar— God's light shines with -
free from chains that bind, free to love our
God's love on dis - play— Christ, hu - man and



treas - ures: peace, whole - ness, and health.
in you, loved just as you are.
neigh - bors; free: heart, soul, and mind.
ho - ly, still shows us the way.