



God is still speaking,  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

***No matter who you are or where you are  
on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!***

**Guilford Community Church is a safe place  
for all people to worship regardless of race, creed,  
age, cultural background or sexual orientation.**

Rev. Lise Sparrow, Pastor

Peter Amidon & Andy Davis, Choir Directors

Patty Meyer, organist

Pastor's Phone: (802) 257-2776

Pastor's e-mail: [gccucc@sover.net](mailto:gccucc@sover.net)

Administrator's/Kitchen Phone: (802) 257-0994

Administrator's e-mail: [gccsecy@sover.net](mailto:gccsecy@sover.net)

website: [www.guilfordchurch.org](http://www.guilfordchurch.org)

Or Like us on Facebook at Guilford Community Church,  
United Church of Christ



Administrative Office Hours: Closed Mon

Tues-Fri 9am-3pm

Pastor's Office Hours: By Appointment

**Bulletin Notices:** Please notify the office by Thursday  
at noon if you would like something added to the  
bulletin.

**Hospital Visits:** If you or a loved one are in the hospital  
and would like a visit from Pastor Lise Sparrow or one of  
the Deacons, please leave a message at 257-2776 with the  
name and room number of the person. Hospital  
confidentiality regulations prevent visits without this  
information.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**April 14, 2019  
Palm/Passion Sunday**

Thanks to everyone for your generosity we were able to send \$3500 to Good Shepherd Church for their work on the Southwest Border. Thank YOU!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday Song:

Happy Birthday, happy birthday, we love you  
Happy Birthday and may all your dreams come true  
When you blow out the candles one light stays aglow  
It's the love light in your eyes, where're you go.

SILENT MEDITATION and THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES  
CALL TO WORSHIP

ANTHEM: "The Lord's Prayer"  
*a new composition by Peter Amidon*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Today we take joy in Baptizing Lila Ani Tadlock and Parker Joseph Tidd, children of Phoebe and Jesse Tidd and grandchildren of Carole (and Joe) Crompton, Maureen Tadlock and Joel and Gail Tidd.*

Pastor: Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us remember the meaning of Baptism.. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

**People: Jesus said "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belong the realm of God. Truly, I say unto you, whomever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.**

**1**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Hymn #278  
"Hear our Prayer, Oh Lord..."

THE OFFERTORY  
CALL TO OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION  
PASSING THE PEACE

\*THE CLOSING HYMN: #179 "Ride On, Ride On In Majesty!"  
SENDING FORTH OF THE LIGHT

BENEDICTION

\*THREEFOLD AMEN: Hymn: #291

\*invites the congregation to stand

\*\*\*RPB=Red Pew Bible \*\*\*LPB=Large Print Bible

**Everyone is welcome to stay after church  
for the special meeting.**

We wish you a warm welcome this morning, and hope you will feel very much at home and among friends. Please plan to stay and join us after the service for a time of refreshment and fellowship.

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of fellowship and refreshment.**

Today we especially thank the volunteers who make this worship service & the reception after possible.

Service Coordinator: Kathie Lovell

Greeters: Barry Levitt & Maryellen Koehler

Coffee Hour: Lucy Spahr-Blazej & Terry Sylvester

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Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who no one else notices.. Blessed are the forgotten. Blessed are the closeted. Blessed are the unemployed, the

unimpressive, the underrepresented. Blessed are the teens who have to figure out ways to hide the new cuts on their arms. Blessed are the meek. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the wrongly accused, the ones who never catch a break, the ones for whom life is hard – for they are those with whom Jesus chose to surround himself. Blessed are foster kids and trophy kids and special ed kids and every other kid who just wants to feel safe and loved and never does. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Blessed are they who know there has to be more than this. Because they are right.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are those who make terrible business decisions for the sake of people. Blessed are the burnt-out social workers and the over-worked teachers and the pro-bono case takers. Blessed are the kids who step between the bullies and the weak. Blessed is everyone who has ever forgiven (us) when we didn't deserve it. Blessed are the merciful for they totally get it.

SCRIPTURE READING (Rachel Johnson)  
Luke 19: 1-10 \*\*\*RPB p.77 \*\*\*LPB p.100

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn #617  
“Write These Words in Our Hearts ...”

SERMON: “Blessings of...”

ANTHEM: “Ain't That Good News” (M. Hogan)  
*Arr. Andy Davis*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER  
(It is our custom to join hands for the Lord's Prayer.)

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Pastor: And He took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them. The Sacrament of Baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. In as much as the promise of the Gospel has been for us,

it is also for children. Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's everlasting forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and fellowship.

**People: Out of the water of Baptism we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

Pastor (to parents): Is it your desire that these children be Baptized into the Christian faith?

**Parents: It is.**

Pastor: Do you promise, with God's help, by your life and teaching to lead these children toward an understanding of the Christian Gospel, and into the service of Christ?

**Parents: We do.**

**Pastor to Congregation: (Those who are able rise)**

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples and to offer them the gift of Grace in Baptism. Do you who are witnesses, promise your love, support and care to the ones about to be Baptized?

**People: We promise our love, support and care. To God be the glory forever and ever.**

PRAYER and ACT OF BAPTISM

ALL: Loving God, may it please you to sanctify by your Holy Spirit these children in the name of the Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED (Rev. Sparrow)

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: Congregation sings Welcome (sung to music of hymn #38 “Morning Has Broken”)

Children, we greet you on this glad morning.

Your day of Life, we now recognize  
Here is the water, we are God's people.  
Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord!

Children, we name you and with thanksgiving  
Offer our prayers and sing you this song.  
We are the Church, your spiritual family  
Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord!

Children, we are all cared for in God's love  
Risking and trusting, daring to see,  
The heavenly Kingdom growing among us  
Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord!

*Repeat as needed until the family has greeted  
the congregation.*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (Phillipians 2: 5-8)  
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard  
equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied  
Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human  
likeness. And being found in human form,  
He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of  
death— even death on a cross.

#### SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Matthew 6:25-27, 33-34)

<sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you  
will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is  
not life more than food, and the body more than  
clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or  
reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father

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feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than  
they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single  
hour to your life? <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his  
righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as  
well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for  
tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough  
trouble of its own.”

SPECIAL MUSIC : “The Merchant’s Carol”

#### CHILDREN’S PROCESSION

*“Blessed is He who Comes in the Name of the Lord!  
Hosanna! Hosanna!”*

The children are invited downstairs for Sunday school  
or nursery care at the end of the procession.

#### CONTEMPORARY READING (Rachel Johnson)

by Nadia-Bolz Weber, adapted for today.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of  
heaven. Blessed are the agnostics. Blessed are they who  
doubt. Those who aren’t sure, who can still be surprised.  
Blessed are they for whom nothing seems to be working.  
Blessed are the poor in spirit. You are of heaven and Jesus  
blesses you.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are they for whom death is not an abstraction.  
Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones, for  
whom tears are as real as an ocean. Blessed are they who  
have loved enough to know what loss feels like. Blessed are  
the mothers of the miscarried.

Blessed are they who don’t have the luxury of taking things  
for granted any more. Blessed are they who can’t fall apart  
because they have to keep it together for everyone else.  
Blessed are the motherless, the alone, the ones from whom  
so much has been taken. Blessed are those who “still aren’t  
over it yet”. Blessed are they who laugh again when for so  
long they thought they never would. Blessed are Carole,  
Maureen, Phoebe, Jesse, Lila and Parker. Blessed are  
those who mourn. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses  
you.

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#### **PRAYERS AT GUILFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Our faith teaches us that prayer is a unique and powerful force  
for healing. Within our community, we believe it is also  
important to respect confidentiality. We trust the people listed  
below have been consulted and are glad to be included.

If you would like a loved one added to these prayers, please leave a prayer request in the prayer triangle at the back of the Sanctuary, or call the Pastor's phone line (257-2776). They will be included in the list for three weeks unless other requests are made.

Family & Friends of Kate Mayo  
Family and Friends of Marilyn Boucher

Joan Shimer	Angela Daprato	Grace Wahlberg
Lisa Vose	Joan Seymour	Doris Spahr
Mary Grove	Elaine Petrie	Carol Jaenson
Theodore Koehler	Bob Maes	Blakely Ann Amidon
Peter Tracy	Justin	Tony Barrand
Jay Falk	Diana MacInnes	Joy Hayes
Lois & Chaz Freeman	Herb Meyer	Elizabeth Israel
Ruth Ayers	Anne Janeway	Michael Vose
Jim Peters	Laurel Jenkins	Kyle Franklin
Mary Ellen Koehler	Alison	Mary Lila Gregg
Chip Siler	Elisabeth Dearborn	Joanie McBean
Matt Kent	Stephen Stearns	Desmond Oliver
Jay Normand		

Officers and Crew of the  
John C. Stennis Aircraft Carrier CVN74

**Prayer Chain:** Should a health emergency arise during the week for which you would like prayers, or if you would be willing to pray for others and would like to join the prayer chain, please call Lucy Spahr-Blazej at (380-3695). If you are leaving a message for Lucy requesting a prayer, please spell the names, or email Lucy at lucysb1@gmail.com.

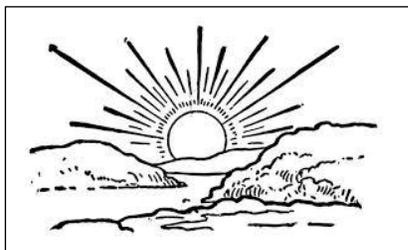
## **EASTER WEEK**

### **Thursday, April 18**

Seder Supper 5:30 pm  
Tenebrae Service, 7pm

### **Friday, April 19**

Good Friday



Ecumenical Service  
Noon to 3pm

## **EASTER!!** **Sunday, April 21**

6am: Sunrise Service  
*Outside next to the church*

6:30: Pancakes for all!  
*Served by the men of the church*  
*Gluten Free pancakes available upon request*

**10AM: EASTER FAMILY SERVICE**  
*Nursery care provided*

## **CHURCH CONNECTIONS AND SUPPORT**

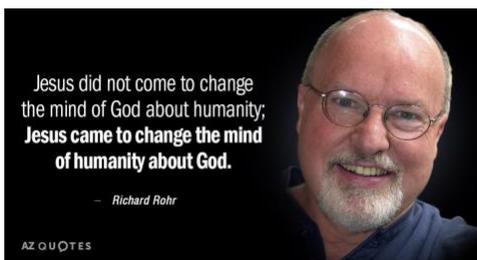
***Need a ride to church?*** Please call Patty Meyer at 254-0994 by Friday noon.

***Want to receive our weekly e-news and quarterly newsletters?*** Please fill out one of the cards in the pews and place it on the offering plate.

***BCTV:*** Many of our services have been filmed and can be found on BCTV, Channel 8 Wednesday morning at 7am and Sunday mornings at 8am or anytime online at [www.brattleborotv.org](http://www.brattleborotv.org).

***Audio-recordings of services*** are available through Patty at 257-0994.

**FINAL GATHERING FOR LENT**  
*after the Congregational Meeting*  
*in the Houghton Room*



“The Universal Christ”  
a conference excerpt with Richard Rohr  
from the Center for Action and Contemplation

**Centering Prayer every Wednesday  
4:20-5:30pm—everyone welcome**

**OPEN MEDITATION  
4:20 - 4:50 pm**

**DISCUSSION  
4:50-5:30pm**

**ANNUAL BOOK SALE  
APRIL 27, 2019  
9 am - 1 pm  
Bring Books! Patty is here to receive  
Tuesday - Fridays 9 am - 3 pm**

**Second Sunday Step/ Study** – An Al-Anon Family Step Work Group. This group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month, 2-4pm in the Houghton Room. The next meeting is **today**, April 14.

WARNING

A Special Meeting of the membership of Guilford Community Church, United Church of Christ, will be held in the sanctuary at the church on Sunday, April 14, 2019, immediately following the end of the worship service to set upon the following business:

ARTICLE 1. To see if the membership will ratify the February 14 decision of Council to implement the overlap model of transition to a new pastor.

ARTICLE 2. To conduct any other business that may legally come before the membership.

To consider...

**LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN –  
Declaring support for the Green New Deal and  
affirming the intersectionality of climate justice  
with all justice issues**

**A Resolution of Witness**

**SUMMARY:** This resolution provides Synod with the opportunity to declare its support for the Green New Deal Resolution1 (H. Res. 109) released by Congress on February 7, 2019.

The Green New Deal creates an opportunity for the United States to commit to goals and projects that are consistent with the UCC’s decades-long advocacy of environmental, racial and economic justice. By declaring its support, Synod 12 will proclaim the intersectionality of climate justice with all justice issues and offer a path of action and hope by which humanity can address the defining moral issues of our time