

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

March 29, 2024



Good Friday Blues

Jazz Lament



We respond to God's call by welcoming everyone regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, race, gender identity, sexual orientation or socio-economic background.

To proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, we affirm that all may share in the full life, ministry, fellowship, responsibilities and blessing of our congregation.

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

Order of Worship

PRELUDE	<i>Spiritual</i>	John Coltrane
WELCOME	Rev. David Denoon and Rev. Maggie Gann <i>At this time, we invite you to silence the ringer on any cellular device you may have with you.</i>	
LIGHTING OF CANDLES AND SENTENCES OF ADORATION (Unison)		
O gracious Light, pure brightness of the eternal Creator in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold your vesper light, we say and sing your praises, Holy God, One in Trinity. O Christ of God, O Giver of life, you are worthy at all times to be praised by voices whether joyous or lamenting, and to be glorified through all the worlds.		
INTROIT	<i>Prayer</i>	Keith Jarrett
THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL	Matthew 26:20-25	Therese Gabriel
REFLECTION	<i>Lamenting Attempted Erasure Rural Women's Summit, 2019 Sponsored by Rural Assembly</i>	Prairie Rose Seminole
MUSIC	<i>Blue Seven</i>	Sonny Rollins
THE SHADOW OF DESERTION	Matthew 26:30-35	Nancy Rudolph
REFLECTION	<i>Lamenting Marginalization of Women from Dolores 2017 Documentary by Peter Bratt</i>	Dolores Huerta
MUSIC	<i>Take Me to the Alley</i>	Gregory Porter
THE AGONY OF THE SOUL	Luke 22:39-44	Sue Leary
REFLECTION	<i>Lamenting Anti-Semitism from Viral: Antisemitism in Four Mutations 2020 Documentary by Peter Goldberg</i>	Tree of Life Synagogue
MUSIC	<i>Dahomey Dance</i>	John Coltrane
THE UNSHARED VIGIL	Mark 14:32-41	Andrea Welnick
REFLECTION	<i>Lamenting Loved Ones' Rejection from Disclosure 2020 Documentary by Sam Feder</i>	Jen Richards
MUSIC	<i>Lament</i>	JJ Johnson
THE SHADOW OF THE SWORD	Matthew 26:47-52	Johari Hunt

Bibliography

Rah, Soong Chan. *Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times*. Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press. 2015. Ostensibly a Christian commentary on the biblical book of Lamentations, this volume invites American Christians to re-examine their practice of faith and adopt lament as a critical element of it. Lament, he argues, is to be used alongside triumphant praise in the affirmation of God's omnipotence and wisdom.

Filmography

Rural Assembly. *Prairie Rose Seminole addresses Rural Women's Summit, 2019* – RuralAssembly.org/prairie-rose-seminole. We became aware of Prairie Rose Seminole, who is the American Indian Alaska Native Program Director for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), when we viewed *We Ride with Her*, a documentary film about Indigenous women motorcycle riders demonstrating across the country to bring awareness of the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/Relatives. Prairie Rose was a producer of the film which recently debuted at the 2023 South By Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas.

Bratt, Peter. *Dolores* (2017). This documentary had its television premiere on the PBS series, *Independent Lens*, on March 27, 2018. It details the life and work of farm labor activist and feminist Dolores Huerta, who, among many other things in her career of demonstration, advocacy, and action, coined the saying, *Si! Se puede!* (Yes, we can!), often mistakenly attributed to her partner Cesar Chavez.

Goldberg, Peter. *Viral: Antisemitism in Four Mutations* (2020). Available to view on the PBS website - pbs.org/video/viral-antisemitism-in-four-mutations-1lwduo/ - this film explores the viral nature of white supremacy's conspiracy theories which are found on the political Left as well as on the Right, which perpetuate Jewish stereotypes, and which continue to cause genuine harm to innocent people.

Feder, Sam. *Disclosure* (2020). Available on Netflix - netflix.com/title/81284247 - this film documents the history of representation of transgender people in cinema, which dates to the very beginning of the moving picture. Only in the last few years have transgender persons found themselves genuinely depicted, but – as is the case with all oppressed groups – such success can breed confidence which then can result in further victimization.

Williams, Marco. *Murders That Matter* (2023). Available at the PBS website - pbs.org/pov/films/murdersthatmatter/ - this video documents African American Muslim mother Movita Johnson-Harrell over five years as she transforms from a victim of violent trauma into a fierce advocate against gun violence in Black communities. Produced in association with ITVS.

King, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC - 1963). On April 16, 1963, *Letter from Birmingham Jail* was published as an open letter responding to another open letter, "A Call to Unity," which had been signed by numerous Southern clergy who called themselves moderate and appealed to Dr. King and his movement for civil rights to be less extremist in their rhetoric and action. This audio recording of the *Letter* was produced by the SCLC, sometime after general publication of the *Letter* by the American Friends Service Committee in May.

WGTV.tv (2020). *North Webster – Black History* was the brainchild of Dr. Howard Fields who, at the time, served as Principal of Steger 6th Grade Center (now Givens Elementary School). Webster Groves middle and high school students conducted interviews of African Americans who had lived in the historic North Webster neighborhood at the time of the desegregation of the Webster Groves School District (1956-1957 academic year). The complete video is available to view at <https://bit.ly/NWGBH>

Kim, Gina. *Rising Against Asian Hate: One Day in March* (2022). Available at the PBS website - [pbs.org/show/rising-against-asian-hate-one-day-march/](https://www.pbs.org/show/rising-against-asian-hate-one-day-march/) - this documentary includes stories that developed, following the March 2021 mass shootings at three spas in Atlanta, Georgia. It examines how this critical moment of racial reckoning sheds light on the struggles, triumphs, and achievements of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities around the United States. The film is narrated by Sandra Oh with music by Jon Batiste and Cory Wong.

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Libretto

“Spiritual”

By John Coltrane

“Prayer”

Music by Keith Jarrett

Lyrics by Cliff Aerie

In the midst of all chaos, I offer a prayer.
As the world turns around me in pain and despair,
I remember your promise that flows everywhere.

In the twilight and darkness when day turns to night,
In each moment of sadness, you offer me sight.
I remember your promise and enter your light.

In the touch of another I sense you are near,
Sharing moments of blessing there's nothing to fear.
I remember your promise and my way seems clear.

“Blue Seven”

Music by Sonny Rollins

Words by Cliff Aerie

Broken! Not my job to fix it—no!
Not my fault! The problem is the other—guy!
It's just me God! I'm not the one who broke it—no!

Back off! Give me just a little—space!
It ain't me! I'm just living day to—day!
It's just me God! Please give me just a little—break!

Oh my! Look at all the mess we've—made!
Ser'ously! It's someone else's—fault!
It's just me God! And I don't want to get in—volved!

“Take Me to the Alley”

By Gregory Porter

Well, they build their houses in preparation for the king,
And they line the sidewalks with every sort of shiny thing.
They will be surprised when they hear him say,
Take me to the alley. Take me to the afflicted ones.
Take me to the lonely ones that somehow lost their way.

Let them hear me say, I am your friend.
Come to my table. Rest here in my garden.
You will have a pardon. You will have a pardon.

“Dahomey Dance”

Music by John Coltrane

Lyrics by Cliff Aerie

No one, no one knows, where a promise goes. Truth lies in your soul.
Look back, see the past. Memories fading fast. Wake up, change your path.
Time’s up, see the light. Move on, hold on tight. Keep on, make it right.

“Lament”

Music by JJ Johnson

Lyrics by Cliff Aerie

Alone in the shadows I lament times gone by.
Hopeless and broken all I offer is a sigh.
When the joy and love is taken from your life,
Each day seems filled with despair. Each breath a heartache unfolding.

Alone in my sorrow I lament every day.
A spark of purpose that has faded away,
From a life devoted to the one who brought love to all my passion.
My song laments a solemn life.

“Chameleon”

Music by Herbie Hancock

Words by Cliff Aerie

Get it, get it, get it out of my mind—I can’t imagine. No way!
Keep it, keep, keep it out of my heart—it’s so horrific. I say:
O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?
What is the answer? Your answer.
O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?
Give me an answer? Your answer.
O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?

Look at, look at, look at the news—it’s disturbing. Painful!
Watch out, watch out, watch out for the lies—thrown at brothers, and sisters!
O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now . . .

Stop it, stop it, stop it right now—don’t want to hear it. No more!
Help me, help me, help me, show me the way—to action. I ask:
O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now . . .

“Alabama”

By John Coltrane

“Blackbird”

By John Lennon & Paul McCartney

Blackbird singing in the dead of night take these broken wings and learn to fly
All your life, you were only waiting for this moment to arise.
Blackbird singing in the dead of night take these sunken eyes and learn to see
All your life, you were only waiting for this moment to be free.

Blackbird fly, blackbird fly into the light of a dark black night.
Blackbird fly, blackbird fly into the light of a dark black night.

“Strange Fruit”

by Abel Meeropol & Billie Holiday

Southern trees bear strange fruit, blood on the leaves and blood at the root.
Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze. Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.

Pastoral scene of the gallant south, the bulging eyes and the twisted mouth,
Scent of magnolias, sweet and fresh, then the sudden smell of burning flesh.

Here is fruit for the crows to pluck, for the rain to gather, for the wind to suck,
For the sun to rot, for the trees to drop. Here is a strange and bitter crop.

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Tonight, the **Oikos Ensemble** includes Kim Fuller Barnes and Ariana Aerie, vocals; Carolbeth True, piano; Glen Smith, bass; David True, percussion; and Cliff Aerie, saxophone.

Good Friday Blues: Jazz Lament is a project of the Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts of the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ.

Rev. Maggie Gann, pastor of Sts. Clare & Francis Ecumenical Catholic Communion, invites you to worship with her community on Saturday night. The Great Vigil of Easter begins with a bonfire at 7:00pm in the Jubilee Garden (south garden on the east side of the church) and transitions to Sample Chapel for an evening of story, song, and sacrament. A light reception and champagne toast will follow the service. All are welcome!

Rev. David Denoon, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ, invites you to his church’s celebrations, this weekend also. On Sunday, March 31, their Festival of the Resurrection will take place in the sanctuary at 10:00am. Prelude with brass and bells at 9:45!

Offering baskets in the narthex of the church are prepared to receive your gifts to benefit future MICA projects. **Thank you!**

Sts. Clare & Francis

Distinct. Inclusive. Catholic.

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pro LGBT+
pro women
pro science
pro choice
pro community
yes, really

Mass: 5pm, Saturdays

10 W Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119



**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH** of Webster Groves

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
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Worship and Kids Church
Sundays at 10am

