

# Wilbraham United Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
and the United Methodist Church*

**500 Main Street Wilbraham MA 01095**

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*Wilbraham United Church*  
"I am the vine, you are the branches."

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Website: [www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch](https://facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch)

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<b>May 2, 2021</b>	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>10:00A.M</b>
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**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**Rev. Paul**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER (unison)    Pastor Chip**

Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love. Here us as we pray:

*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.*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**PSALTER**

**Psalms 22:25-31**

My praise is of God in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Lord.  
The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall give praise:  
"May your heart live for ever!"  
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.  
For sovereignty belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall before God.  
My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve God;  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.  
They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn  
the saving deeds that God has done.

## SONG OF PRAISE

72 Gloria, Gloria

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MOMENT FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

**Pastor Chip**

### FIRST READING

**Acts 8:26-40**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.  
In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting

with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## **GOSPEL**

**John 15:1-8**

“I am the true vine, and my “Abba” is the vinegrower, who removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit the Vinegrower prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My “Abba” is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

One: Our God is still speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **SERMON**

**Rev. Paul**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Pastor Chip**

## **OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

One: God be with you

**All: And also with you**

One: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them up to God**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this Holy Communion – oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and risen life that never ends. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**PARTING HYMN**

*Be Thou My Vision*

**BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Paul**

**MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH**

*Go now in peace, Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.*

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## **MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY**

**Senior Pastor:** The Rev. Wallace A Hurd IV

**Associate Pastor:** The Rev. Paul Nesbit

**Technical and Artistic Director:** Deb Trimble

**Piano:** Karen McCarthy



### ***Please Pray For:***

Lisa, Bill and the Gatchell family, Theresa Munn, Herb Vieira, Judy Hoffman, Kathy, Betty Sallade, Daniel, Catherine, Lynne, Emily, Terry, Denise, Ray, Theresa, Ann, Jane Godfrey, Shey McAbee, Sharon McAbee, Patti Keiser, Sue Pereira,

Bev Sawyer, Kathie Birkhaeuser. The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.

Copyright Info:

Song Title: **Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song**

Author: Carl P. Daw and Peter Cutts

Copyright Year: ©1982

Publisher: Hope Publishing Co.

Song Title: **Gloria, Gloria**

Author: Jaques Berthier and the Community of Taizé

Copyright Year: ©1979

Publisher: Les Presses de Taizé by permission of G.I.A Publications, Inc.

Song Title: **Go Now in Peace**

Author: Natalie Sleeth, 1976

Copyright Year: ©1976

Publisher: Hinshaw Music, Inc.

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## ***“News for the Pews” for the Week of May 2, 2021***

**To contact the church, please email:**

**Aimee Walat**, Administrative Assistant ([admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org))

**Pastor Chip** ([pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org))

**Rev. Paul** ([christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org))

### **This Week at Wilbraham United Church**

#### **Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**3:30-5:00 p.m.** Office Hour with Rev. Paul in the Zeckhausen Room

**7:15 p.m.** Bedtime Bible Stories (Facebook Live)

**7:30 p.m.** Bible Study Happy Hour (Zoom)

#### **Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**

**10 a.m-2 p.m.** Office Hours with Pastor Chip in the Zeckhausen Room

#### **Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**

**10 a.m-2 p.m.** Office Hours with Pastor Chip in the Zeckhausen Room

**5:30-7:00 p.m.** Office Hours with Rev. Paul in the Zeckhausen Room

#### **Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

(Southern New England Conference Annual Meeting via Zoom)


#### **Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m.** Sunday Worship (Front Lawn & Facebook Live)


**Bring a chair and a mask**

# Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song 544

*Unison*



1. Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal-lenge of her  
 2. To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch-es of the  
 3. With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease-less voice of




flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the  
 Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to her  
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the




new flame's ea - ger might: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 peace be-yond com - pare: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.





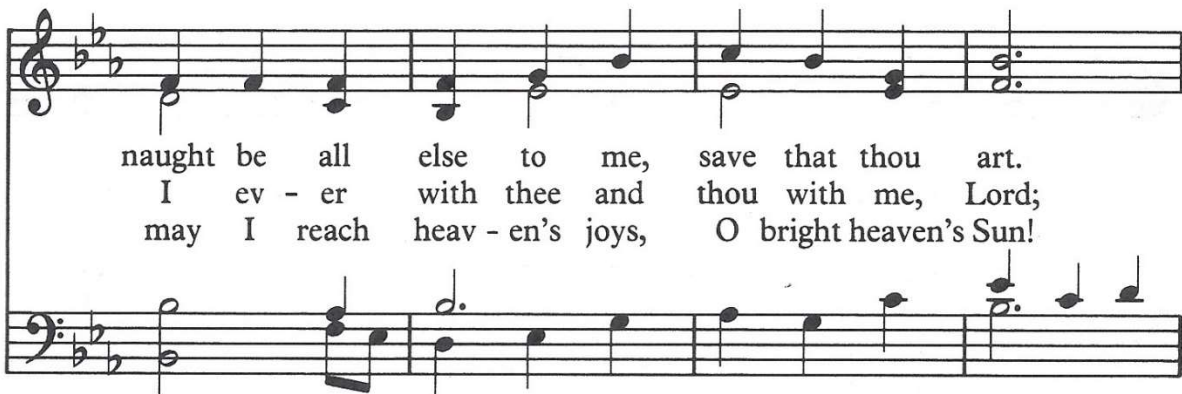
# Be Thou My Vision

451

*Unison*



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!



Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

