Village Church

United Church of Christ

April 28, 2013
ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 28, 2013 10:00 AM

PRELUDE

INTROIT “The River is Here” Andy Park
Youth Choir

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN NO. 459 “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”
New Century Hymnal Nettleton

*PRAYER OF PRAISE Pam Emslie

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Risen Savior, we stand in the light of the Resurrection and we cast our own shadows. We seek you in places we have already left, and fail to see you even when you walk beside us. We do not expect our lives to be changed by your presence. Help us to recognize you in new ways, that we may not cling to our familiar grief, but may be freed to proclaim Resurrection in the name of Christ. We ask this even now as we come before you in silence.

SILENT PRAYER

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
*RESPONSE IN SONG  “Joy Dailed Again on Easter Day”

ANTHEM  “Wherever I May Wander”

Wherever I may wander, wherever I may be, I’m certain of my Maker’s love; God’s care is over me. God made the great high mountains, and made the wide blue sea; God made the sky with birds that fly; God made the world, and me. Throughout the whole creation, I see God’s loving care; For everyone in every land, God’s children everywhere.

SCRI PTURE  Ephesians 1:15-19, 3:14-21

*HYMN  NO. 451  “Be Now My Vision”

Students may now leave for classes.

SERMON  “A Letter of Love”

SERMON RESPONSE

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
OUR 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 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, for ever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE “O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing”
THE OFFERING

During the offering, please sign and pass the fellowship book, which is located at the end of each pew.

Invitation

Offertory “I Will Arise and Go to Jesus”

Robert W. Lehman

I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms; In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms. Come ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and pow’r. I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms; In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms. Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God’s free bounty glorify; True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh. I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms; In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms. Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall; If you tarry til you’re better, you will never come at all. I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms; In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms. Let not conscience make you linger, not of fitness fondly dream; All the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him. I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms; In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms! O there are ten thousand charms!

*Doxology and Presentation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done,

*Dedication

A TIME OF FAREWELL

Martin:

Our church community is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, growing toward new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share a farewell with our pastor and sister in Christ, Kathy Musser, as she retires.

Wendy Vander Hart:

In June of 1996, this local church called Kathy Musser to serve as associate pastor here at Village Church.
Kathy:
I thank Village Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness and support shown me these last 16 years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been encouraged and accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

Congregation:
We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that your time with us is ending. We express our gratitude for your ministry among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Kathy:
I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Martin:
Do, you, the members and friends of Village Church, release Rev. Kathy Musser from the duties of Associate Pastor at Village Church?

Congregation: We do, with the help of God.

Martin:
Do you offer her your encouragement as her life and ministry unfolds in new ways?

Congregation: We do, with the help of God.

Martin:
Do you, Kathy, release Village Church from turning to you and depending on you?

Kathy: I do, with the help of God.

Martin:
Do you offer your encouragement for the continuing ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

Kathy: I do, with the help of God.

Witness of the Association, Wendy Vander Hart
On behalf of the Metropolitan Boston Association and the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness and release. The member churches of our association and conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

Martin:
Let us pray:
All:

O God, we give thanks for remembered times, when we, together, have shared this life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Kathy in worship, in prayer, and in presence. We pray that Kathy will always be aware of your Spirit’s guidance in her life and ministry. Help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

PRESENTATIONS

LAYING ON OF HANDS

*HYMN “God, The Spirit, Guide and Guardian” (see next page)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Those who are able, please stand.
"God, The Spirit, Guide and Guardian"

1. God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-sped flame and hovering dove, Breath of life and voice of

2. Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, Word made flesh, love crucified, Teacher, healer, suffering yond all thought’s recall, Fount of wisdom, womb of

3. Great Creator, life bestower, truth be-vided and diverse, Deeper than our minds can

4. Triune God, mysterious being, undi - prophets, sign of blessing, power of love: Give to

servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride: In your mercy, giving and forgiving all: As you

fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse: Help us those who lead your people fresh anointing

tending may all people learn and live a know our strength and weakness, so may those the

in our varied callings your full image of your grace; Send them forth as bold as

shepherd’s care; Grant them courage and com-

curch exalts O ver see its life stead-
to proclaim, That our mis-

pos - tles to your church in every place. pas sion shown through word and deed and prayer. fast - ly yet not o ver look its faults. nit ing may give glo ry to your name.
TODAY’S NOTES

Special guests with us today are:
Wendy Vander Hart, Associate Conference Minister of the Metropolitan Boston Association of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ. We welcome her as representative of the larger church in witness and support of this transition in ministry today.

Kathy is also delighted to have with us here today her son and daughter-in-law, David Walker and Nonie Hamilton, and Kathy’s sister Judith Musser.

Pastoral Care If you have any pastoral needs or know of any in the Village Church family, please leave your message at 781-235-1988 x10 and your message will be picked up by the pastor on call.

Care Kits If during the worship service you find you need a tissue, cough drop, or a drink of water, please ask an Usher to help you.

Hearing devices amplify sound anywhere in the Sanctuary. They are available at the back of the church. For assistance, please speak with an Usher.

The Chancel flowers today are given by Kathy Musser in gratitude to God for the grace-filled privilege of having served this congregation, and with love for each and every one here.

Fellowship Hour 11:15 am, Village Common
Please join us for coffee and fellowship. Information for visitors is available at the Welcome Table. Providing hospitality today are members from the Village Churchwomen. Please take a moment to thank them.

7th & 8th Grade Youth Group 5 pm, Youth Room
High School Youth Group 7 pm, Youth Room
For information about youth programs, contact Pam Emslie at 781-235-1988 x15 or pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

BULLETIN NOTES

Youth Choirs

Rehearsal Dates:
Youth Choir: May 1, 8 at 6:15 pm; May 5, 12 at 8:45 am.
Junior Choir: May 5 and 12, 8:45 am

Performance Dates:
Junior and Youth Choirs: Youth Sunday, May 5, 10 am Worship Service
Mother’s Day, May 12, 10 am Worship Service
Cereal Sunday  May 5
Just one box of cereal per Village Church family per month and we’ll fill the Wellesley Food Pantry cereal shelves for a year! Food may be dropped off anytime in the designated box in the Cloister and in the basket at the Village Common entrance.

Now Live: Village Church Website Members Area
The secure, password-protected Members Area of our church website is now up and running! Visit the website at www.wellesleyvillagechurch.org/about-us/members-area to log in and check it out. Once logged in, you can add your photo to our online directory, share a prayer request or celebration, and collaborate with members of your ministries and small groups. Please contact Tricia Kibbe at tricia@wellesleyvillagechurch.org or 781-235-1988 x17 with any questions.

Village Church Moms’ Group  Tuesday, April 30, 7 pm, Margarita’s
After a tough week for our community, we look forward to being all together again. The next Church Moms’ dinner will be a much needed, night out on the town. We’ll be gathering at Margarita’s in Framingham at 7 pm, (725 Cochituate Rd, Framingham, at the corner of Speen St and RT 30 - just down the street from the Natick Mall). We hope you can join us at 7:00 for dinner, friendship and conversation. Please RSVP by contacting Amy Hille at amyhille@yahoo.com. If you have never been to a Church Mom’s dinner or activity, we'd love to have you join us. We look forward to seeing you!

Village Churchmen Museum Trip  Tuesday, April 30, 10 am
The Village Churchmen are planning a trip to the Museum of World War II. The Curator of the Imperial War Museum in London wrote: "The Museum of World War II is the most comprehensive display of World War II Artifacts on display anywhere." The trip is open to all men of Village Church, their spouses or a friend. If interested, please email Arthur Stock at ajstock@earthlink.net or by voice at 781-449-1970. Attendance is limited to 30.

American Red Cross Blood Drive  Monday, May 6, 1-7 pm in Village Common
There is a need for blood donors of all types, especially Type “O.” In order to donate blood you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good general health. You may call the American Red Cross at 800-448-3543 to schedule an appointment or you may also just show up at a time convenient for you between 1 and 7 pm. It is important to drink plenty of fluids before donating. Refreshments will also be provided. Please bring a valid ID. This is a great opportunity for you to give the gift of life. To volunteer to help, contact Susan Hoffman at sghhoffman@comcast.net.

Climate Reality Workshop  Friday, May 10, 7 pm
The Environmental Ministry and Sustainable Wellesley will host a Climate Reality Workshop at Village Church. Featured speakers will be Quentin Prideaux of Wellesley and the Citizens Climate Lobby. The gathering is open to all, surrounding houses of worship have been invited. Come at 6:30 for pizza and soft drinks and chatter with friends. Afterwards there will break-out locations where we can learn what can be done right now to help change our climate future. For more information, contact Wil Breden at wrbreden@aol.com or Mary Gard at mgard62@gmail.com.
**Village Churchwomen Annual Meeting and Lunch**  
*Tuesday, May 14 at 12 Noon*

SAVE THE DATE! The Village Churchwomen will be holding their Annual Meeting and Lunch and all women in the church are invited. IMPORTANT: Please RSVP by signing the sheet on the bulletin board in the Central Street Lobby by Thursday, May 9, so we can order the right amount of food. SPEAKER: A Wellesley resident who is an international author will be our guest speaker. After the highly successful Book Swap for Valentine's Day, we decided to invite a speaker to our Annual Meeting who might appeal to one and all, but especially to our book-lovers.

**Family Promise Training**  
*May 23, 6:30 pm*

Village Church will be hosting families for Family Promise Metrowest during the week of June 9. Training is required for all volunteers twelve years of age and older to ensure an understanding of the program and sensitivity to our guests. The training is also valuable for returning volunteers to brush up on policy/procedures and ask any questions you’ve developed since your time of service. For more information please contact Margaret Taylor at 781-237-1708 or Ruth Breden at 781-235-0193.
What’s happening in Church School today?

- **Kindergarten students and younger** will be welcomed in their classrooms before 10 am worship begins. The Infant/Toddler Room is located on the main floor just outside the Sanctuary to the left of the Chancel. 2 year olds through Kindergarten classrooms are located on the upper floor. Children should be picked up promptly at the conclusion of worship.

- **Grades 1-8** will worship with their parents until it is time for class, as indicated in the bulletin. At that time, 
Grades 1-5 will meet at the signs downstairs in Village Hall and proceed to the following classrooms for a special activity.
This week:  
**Grade 1:** Fishes and Loaves Café  
**Grade 2 & 3:** Science Room  
**Grade 4 & 5:** Storyteller’s Tent Room

All Babson Participants, Grades 6–8 and Junior Choir will meet in the Choir Room.

Classes for Grades 1-8 conclude at 11:15 or the end of worship whichever is later. Students in Grades 3 and below should be met by their parents at their classrooms.

**Babson Night Rehearsals:** All church school children ages 6-16 are invited to participate in singing and/or speaking roles. Rehearsals are during Church School Performance on May 19, 4 pm, at the Richard Knight Auditorium on the Babson Campus.

The Family Room is available for parents who aren’t quite ready to leave their infants and toddlers in childcare. In this room, parents will be able to listen to the worship service while their child naps or plays. This room is located upstairs beyond the library.