



"Valley by the Sea" by Edward Moran.

# Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Rev. Dan Stark, pastor  
Matthew Lawrenz, musician

[www.uccmke.org](http://www.uccmke.org)

In this ninth week after the Pentecost event and our second worship service in-person during the pandemic, we continue our sermon series, *Emerge*, with an exploration of texts of “return” and “emergence” in the Bible. This week we explore a scripture in the Old Testament known as “Deutero-Isaiah,” which speaks about the Israelites returning to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon. When the Lord led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt in the book of Exodus, the Lord made a “dry way” through a wet sea as Moses parted the waters of the Sea of Reeds. In Deutero-Isaiah, God makes a “wet way” through a dry sea – the deserts. God causes springs to come out of the desolate ground and smoothens the path for the exiles’ return to the holy city. This scripture is echoed in God’s doing of a new thing at the end of the age in Revelation 21. This week as we return once more to worship in person and enjoy the communion meal together, we are reminded of how familiar things we love and long for must be done differently during COVID-19. We emerge to do old things in new ways.

**Prelude**

**Soul, Adorn Thyself With Gladness**

**arr. J.S. Bach**

**Prayer for Returning to the Church Building (Maybe)**

**Matt Laney**

*God, I miss that place, the praise, those people, candles, bread and cup, the doors, the steeple.  
But honestly God, I’m uncertain about going back.  
Must we pass the peace? Will others wear a mask?  
Will we sing ourselves sick? Always in long sleeves and pants?  
Can I be spiritual while thinking about disinfectants?  
God, you said in every shadow valley, there you would be so I’m trusting in your rod and your staff to protect me.  
May my (individual and sanitized) cup overflow; may goodness and mercy follow wherever I go.  
Even into your house.*

**Words of Welcome**

**A Song for Today**

**Sing a New Song**

**Hymn #10**

**Opening Litany**

**UCC Worship Ways**

**Rev. Kaji S. Douša**

One: The day breaks  
All: **And God does not let us go.**  
One: The hour calls  
All: **And God does not let us go.**  
One: The evening falls  
All: **And God holds us fast.**  
One: Let us turn to God in worship  
All: **God, who never turns from us.**



*“By the Waters of Babylon” by Evelyn De Morgan.*

**Prayer for Today**

**Rev. Kaji S. Douša**

*God, you see us.  
You see our struggles,  
You see our difficulties.  
You see our possibilities,  
You see our promise.  
Connect the dots for us, O God.  
Soften the hard spots with your blessing.*

*Call us in our wandering to hear you say our names.  
Satisfy our longings as with loaves and fishes and manna from heaven.  
For you are a good God, a God present in the scramble,  
And in the end, you always, always have a*

blessing.  
 For this and so much more,

we give you thanks, through Jesus Christ. Amen.  
 Amen."

## The Gloria

### Old Testament

[Isaiah 43:1-21](#)

Isaiah is the longest and most important of the prophetic books in the Old Testament. Its themes cover the span of Israel's history before, during, and after the exile. It offers a full range of God's prophetic message: words of judgement and promise. The second part of the book, Deutero-Isaiah, offers words of comfort and hope to the exiles in Babylonian captivity. This week's reading from Isaiah is about the restoration and protection promised by God to the Israelites as they return to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon. God does a new thing and makes a wet way in a dry desert to welcome the exiles out of captivity.



"For those in Darkness" by Lauren



"Let There Be" by Lauren Wright.

### New Testament

[Revelation 21:1-5](#)

In this New Testament selection from Revelation, we hear the words of John, a living martyr who was exiled to the island of Patmos. John wrote a series of letters containing descriptions of his visions to the churches in his day. Revelation consists of six cycles of visions, each of which warns of the dangers arising from sin and evil. Every cycle concludes by showing the readers the glories of worship in God's presence. The Bible begins in Genesis in the garden and comes full circle in the book of Revelation in the garden. In today's reading, God does a new thing by dwelling among the people rather than in the temple.

Homily

Emerge: Old Things in New Ways

Rev. Dan Stark

Song of Response

Softly and Tenderly

Hymn #348

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

*When resources were short, did Christ worry?  
No! Christ saw the gifts, and Christ multiplied them!  
This is the miracle we witness every time we give to the church.  
God will take what we have, and God will do good things with it.  
You are invited to give, and even to participate in the miracle  
of God's multiplying acts.*

Prayer of Dedication

*God of increase and bounty, Source of all good things:  
we offer these gifts as a portion of that which you have given us.*

*May these gifts be as loaves and fishes  
for those who find themselves in poverty or hunger.  
May this act of giving bring about change:  
change in our lives,  
change in the lives we touch,  
change in the systems that harm.  
Through Christ, who gave so much to save. Amen.*

**Doxology**

**A Song of Response**

**Down to the River to Pray**

**Molly Pufall-Brown**

**The Sacrament of Communion**

**Invitation**

**The Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Telling the Story**

**Blessing the Elements**

**Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

**Mary Luti**

**Closing Song**

**Christ Be My Leader**

**Hymn #453**

**Sending Blessing**

**Rev. Kaji S. Douša**

*God's peace: carry, keep and hold you.  
God's love: nourish, bless and enfold you.  
God's spirit: inspire, lift and mold you.*

*Almighty God: + Triune, holy and blessed  
Be with you now and forever. Amen.*

**Postlude**

**Trumpet Tune in C**

**arr. Johnson**

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email [pastor@uccmke.org](mailto:pastor@uccmke.org).  
Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

We are currently gathering in person for worship with safety and sanitation protocols in place.  
Learn more here. <https://www.uccmke.org/covid-19>

You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ  
Church,  
915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

