

## Resources for the celebration of Access Sunday 2018

Access Sunday is celebrated on the second Sunday in October which this year is on **October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. Inside this packet you will find preaching and worship resources for the celebration of Access Sunday 2018. These resources have been prepared by members of the [United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries](http://uccdm.org) Board of Directors to support the celebration of Access Sunday, October 14, 2018 throughout all settings of the United Church of Christ. For more information, or to be in touch with the UCCDM Board of Directors please refer to [uccdm.org](http://uccdm.org), email [secretary@uccdm.org](mailto:secretary@uccdm.org).

### **Possible themes:**

- Welcoming All
- What is Inclusion?
- Helping to reform a just world

### **Preaching Resources based on the lectionary:**

- The readings from the [Revised Common Lectionary](#) are listed here:

<b>October 14, 2018, the twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost in liturgical year B</b>			
<b>First* reading and Psalm</b>	<b>Alternate* First reading and Psalm</b>	<b>Second reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<a href="#">Job 23:1-9, 16-17</a>	<a href="#">Amos 5:6-7, 10-15</a>	<a href="#">Hebrews 4:12-16</a>	<a href="#">Mark 10:17-31</a>
<a href="#">Psalm 22:1-15</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 90:12-17</a>		

## ● **Biblical Reflections by UCCDM ministers**

★ *The UCCDM board offers these reflections in hopes that that they inspire you when writing your own sermon that might focus on inclusion or welcome and disabilities this **Access Sunday!*** ★

- [A Story of Liberation](#): This is a reflection on [Exodus 3:7 - 8a](#) by Katie Huffman, a Student Pastor, Peace United Church of Christ on October 11th, 2015.
- [Christianity and disability: a mixed bag](#): This is a sermon that reflects on a number of statements in the Bible, particularly [Leviticus 21:18](#). It was written by Kevin Pettit, a Commissioned Minister in the UCC, and was delivered on February 20th, 2016.
- [Invisible](#): This is a sermon by the Rev. Christina M. Fidanza, written for Disabilities Awareness Week while she was a senior at [Lancaster Theological Seminary](#). This sermon reflects on a passage from the Bible about the disciple “doubting” Thomas, [John 20:19 - 31](#).
- [The Cracked Vessel](#): This is a sermon by Jaclyn Schofield concerning the blind beggar Bartimaeus, which is a story in our Bible found in [Mark 10:46 - 52](#).
- [A reflection on Psalm 22](#) by the Jaclyn Schofield.  
(You all know it, but here’s the text for [Psalm 22](#).)

- **A Bulletin Insert for Access Sunday 2018**



## **Possible Elements of a Service Offered on Access Sunday**

- **Call to Worship 1**

One: We come to this service from near and far, from the north and the south,  
from the east and the west.

**All: We come to make our connection evident!**

One: We come to this celebration by walking on our feet, rolling in a chair, riding a bike,  
driving a car, or being carried in an other's arms.

**All: We come with our hearts and with our minds, to benefit them both.**

One: We come from homes of plenty and hostels of little,  
we come from places of joy and of sadness;

**All: But we are all here to learn of our God and to rejoice in our God's love.**

**All are welcome here and, together, let us worship our God!**

## ● Call to Worship 2 (from Ps. 130)

Leader: You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up, You discern my thoughts from far away.

*People: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.*

Leader: Where can I go from Your spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me fast.

*People: For it was You who formed my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

Leader: My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

*People: In Your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.*

Leader: How weighty to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them - they are more than sand. I come to the end - I am still with You. Come, let us worship God!

## ● Invocation

One: God of a renewing and justice-filled Creation, we come to You this day as a broken people. Divided by differences that we cling to as important — by race, gender, sexuality, nationality, income, and ability — we now seek to become more aware of Your vision for humanity, one of mutual respect, measureless beneficence, and joyful love.

All: **Help us to recognize our weakness and reliance upon You. Teach us today, and every day, of your gentle ways and how we might make You more manifest in today's world. Guide us as we struggle live following your example: to satisfy each other's needs, to show all others of Your mercies, and help everyone learn how to spread your good word. Amen.**

- **Call for the UCCDM BOARD Offering:**

**Background Information:** *The United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries (UCCDM) encourages all settings of the UCC to be Accessible to All (A2A), and in doing so the UCCDM Board of Directors serve to support local churches, associations, camps, conferences and events, as they seek to include people with disabilities in all aspects of the Church's life and ministry. When giving to the UCC Disabilities Ministries, your tax deductible gift allows for the mission of the Board to be realized in a variety of ways; Directors work to educate and advocate with and for people living with disabilities by providing worship, and other informative materials, offering grants to new Conference Inclusion Teams, hosting the biennial Widening the Welcome Conference, and meeting with various organizations learning new ways to bring both able bodied persons and persons living with disabilities into community, so that we may all be one in Christ's body. More information on giving to UCC Disabilities Ministries may be found at the website <http://uccdm.org> here one can make an online payment using PayPal. Checks are also accepted by making them payable and mailing to UCCDM, c/o **Chair of the UCCDM Board of Directors, Paul Fogle at 1444 Old Forge Road, Annville, PA, 17003.***

One: Gathered Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the scriptures offered on this Access Sunday remind us that in order to follow Christ, we must be willing to joyfully offer up our time and treasure in order to Live the Gospel! Today we invite you to share your treasure to support the work of those who are called by God to serve others, and who have done so by joining the mission of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries. Please honor their service by sharing a gift that will aid them in supporting all settings of the UCC as the denomination strives to be "Accessible to All".

- **Prayer of Dedication for the UCCDM BOARD Offering:**

**All: Inclusive God, we ask that You feel our songs, praises and our prayers on this day designated as Access Sunday. We thank You for the gift of our life and all that You have given us. We want to live the Gospel! So we offer gifts of treasure in hopes that You will use them to support those who serve in the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries. It is our hope that the joy we receive by giving in Your Name today will be known exponentially through their good works. We pray those in service will be empowered by Your blessing so that they will be able to bring awareness of Your inclusive love for all Your children. Amen.**

## ● Prayer of Dedication 2

All: Lord, You have created us to be diverse. We are created in Your image, but we are all different from each other. In Your eyes however, we are all equal.

We are the ones who cannot hear or see, whose hearts are weak, who need insulin, who struggle with cancer and mental illness.

We are the ones whose bodies and hearts and minds are strong and straight.

You are the one who became broken for us.

Holy One, You have blessed us ALL with gifts to share. With the capacity to be vessels for Your living water and Your light. In love and gratitude we bring those gifts back to You, in order that they may be used to help all people find and share their gifts.

## ● Unison Prayer

All: *Holy One, You love each and every thing that You have made: brains that learn differently, eyes that see dimly or not at all, bodies that ache, hands that tremble, hearts that beat out of rhythm, steps that were once spry and now are not. Help us to love all Your children as You do, remembering that kindness, patience, humor and friendship are both free and priceless, and that Your people come in all conditions. Help us to love them, as Jesus showed us how. Amen.*

## ● Unison Prayer of Confession:

All: Expansive God, whose love extends beyond our own comfortable boundaries, you are forever creating, sustaining, and reflecting your image in all creation! We admit to feeling challenged by the struggle to consider the life experienced by “the other”. We often overlook these challenges, only saying to ourselves “How does this affect me?”. We forget our relationship to your son — your son, who rose on the third day, bearing his disabilities with humility, and graced us as “the other”. You’ve shown us that the others we meet are not really “other”, but instead are part of our own community. With compassion and concern, stand with us when we stumble and find ourselves questioning why we should care. Forgive us for these considerations, and grant us the courage to see your image reflected in all others — the temporarily able-bodied and the disabled, friends and strangers — so we may recognize all our unique talents and abilities which prepare the feast at Christ’s table. Amen!

- **Benediction:**

One: May the God of amazing grace allow us all to experience the beauty of God's kin-dom and to foster all the contributions of your giving hearts in caring for all creation. Know that we **all** have equity in God's kin-dom and are never alone in any challenges we face this week. Approach this week with the fervor to build just a small part of the kin-dom of God!

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## **NRSV Translations of Lectionary Texts for Access Sunday, October 14th, 2018**

*(Please note: The text of the lectionary readings suggested by the [Revised Common Lectionary](#), including verse numbers, are printed below; however, because this numbering is rather arbitrary and not included in the original copies of texts translated into our Bible, the texts of the entire chapter are included as well. Frequently, this can elucidate the intended meaning of these biblical texts.)*

### **Job 23:1-9, 16-17**

**1** Then Job answered:

**2** “Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning.

**3** Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling!

**4** I would lay my case before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.

**5** I would learn what he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me.

**6** Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?

No; but he would give heed to me.

**7** There an upright person could reason with him,  
and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

**8** “If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him;

**9** on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.

[10 But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I shall come out like gold.

11 My foot has held fast to his steps; I have kept his way and have not turned aside.

12 I have not departed from the commandment of his lips;

I have treasured in my bosom the words of his mouth.

13 But he stands alone and who can dissuade him? What he desires, that he does.

14 For he will complete what he appoints for me; and many such things are in his mind.

15 Therefore I am terrified at his presence; when I consider, I am in dread of him.]

**16** God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me;

**17** If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!



## **Psalm 22:1-15**

*To the leader: according to The Deer of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.*

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?**
- 2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.**
- 3 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.**
- 4 In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**
- 5 To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.**
- 6 But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.**
- 7 All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;**
- 8 “Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver —  
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”**
- 9 Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.**
- 10 On you I was cast from my birth,  
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.**
- 11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.**
- 12 Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;**
- 13 they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.**
- 14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;**
- 15 my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.**
- [16 For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me.  
My hands and feet have shriveled;
- 17 I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;
- 18 they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.
- 19 But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!
- 20 Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!
- 21 Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
- 22 I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
- 23 You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- 24 For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.
- 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live forever!
- 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
- 28 For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.
- 29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.
- 30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,
- 31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.]

## Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

[1 Hear this word that I take up over you in lamentation, O house of Israel:

2 Fallen, no more to rise, is maiden Israel;

forsaken on her land, with no one to raise her up.

3 For thus says the Lord God: The city that marched out a thousand shall have a hundred left, and that which marched out a hundred shall have ten left.

4 For thus says the Lord to the house of Israel: Seek me and live;

5 but do not seek Bethel, and do not enter into Gilgal or cross over to Beer-sheba; for Gilgal shall surely go into exile, and Bethel shall come to nothing.]

**6 Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.**

**7 Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!**

[8 The one who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the Lord is his name,

9 who makes destruction flash out against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress.]

**10 They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.**

**11 Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.**

**12 For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins — you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate.**

**13 Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.**

**14 Seek good and not evil, that you may live;**

**and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said.**

**15 Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate;**

**it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.**

[16 Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord:

In all the squares there shall be wailing; and in all the streets they shall say, “Alas! alas!”

They shall call the farmers to mourning, and those skilled in lamentation, to wailing;

17 in all the vineyards there shall be wailing, for I will pass through the midst of you, says the Lord.

18 Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;

19 as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.

20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animal I will not look upon.

23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.  
25 Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?  
26 You shall take up Sikkuth your king, and Kaiwan your star-god, your images,  
which you made for yourselves;  
27 therefore I will take you into exile beyond Damascus, says the Lord,  
whose name is the God of hosts.]

## **Psalm 90:12-17**

*A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.*

- [1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,  
    or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
    from everlasting to everlasting you are God.  
3 You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."  
4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,  
    or like a watch in the night.  
5 You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
    like grass that is renewed in the morning;  
6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.  
7 For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.  
8 You have set our iniquities before you,  
    our secret sins in the light of your countenance.  
9 For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.  
10 The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;  
    even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.  
11 Who considers the power of your anger?  
    Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.]
- 12 So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**  
**13 Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!**  
**14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,**  
    **so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**  
**15 Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,**  
    **and as many years as we have seen evil.**  
**16 Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.**  
**17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,**  
    **and prosper for us the work of our hands —**  
    **O prosper the work of our hands!**

## **Hebrews 4:12 - 16**

[1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest is still open, let us take care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it.

2 For indeed the good news came to us just as to them; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.

3 For we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "As in my anger I swore, 'They shall not enter my rest,' " though his works were finished at the foundation of the world.

4 For in one place it speaks about the seventh day as follows, "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works."

5 And again in this place it says, "They shall not enter my rest."

6 Since therefore it remains open for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience,

7 again he sets a certain day – "today" – saying through David much later, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God[c] would not speak later about another day.

9 So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God;

10 for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labors as God did from his.

11 Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs.]

**12 Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

**13 And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.**

**14 Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.**

**15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.**

**16 Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

## **Mark 10:17 - 31**

**17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”**

**18 Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.**

**19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’”**

**20 He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.”**

**21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”**

**22 When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.**

**23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”**

**24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!**

**25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”**

**26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?”**

**27 Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”**

**28 Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”**

**29 Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age – houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal life.**

**31 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”**