

October 6, 2024

Mark 10:2-16

Enfolding Love

Many times we find ourselves skipping over the topic of divorce that we have in the first part of Mark 10:2-16, in favor of the more polite dinner conversation of Jesus blessing the children.

Divorce is never easy to discuss. It's deeply personal with complexities unique to each couple. Yet many still weigh in with their opinions, just as they did in Jesus' day.

Here, it's the religious legal experts — the Pharisees — who bring the topic to Jesus, hoping to catch the rising star of the Galilee in a false statement.

They ask straight out, "Is divorce lawful?"

At the time, there were two main teachings about divorce circulating among the Jews. There was the teaching of Hillel, a liberal rabbi, and then there was the more conservative rabbi, Shammai. The Pharisees wanted to know which camp Jesus was in. Neither.

Jesus was in the God camp, reminding them — and us — that life is messy. It is only God who knows each tangled heart intimately.

Jesus proceeds to answer their question by asking one of his own, "What did Moses say?" The Pharisees acknowledge that Moses allowed a certificate of dismissal.

And there you go. Moses allowed — not God, Jesus points out. It was never the plan for God's beloveds to experience the heartache of separation.

In a perfect world, there would be a love so strong that the ties that bind would never break. But we don't live in a perfect world. We live in a fallen one where God has given us free will to make decisions. Thankfully, God's redeeming love has the power to repair the brokenness in our lives.

Let's now go beyond married couples. What about the "divorces" — the breakups and breakdowns — among siblings, co-workers, and dear friends?

What if we realize that our fragile hearts are always at risk of the "hardening" that Jesus spoke.

What if this day we made a vow to all humanity to keep our hearts forever opened, allowing the space for the Spirit to come and heal the hurts, forgive the betrayals and grant the patience needed in our trying moments?

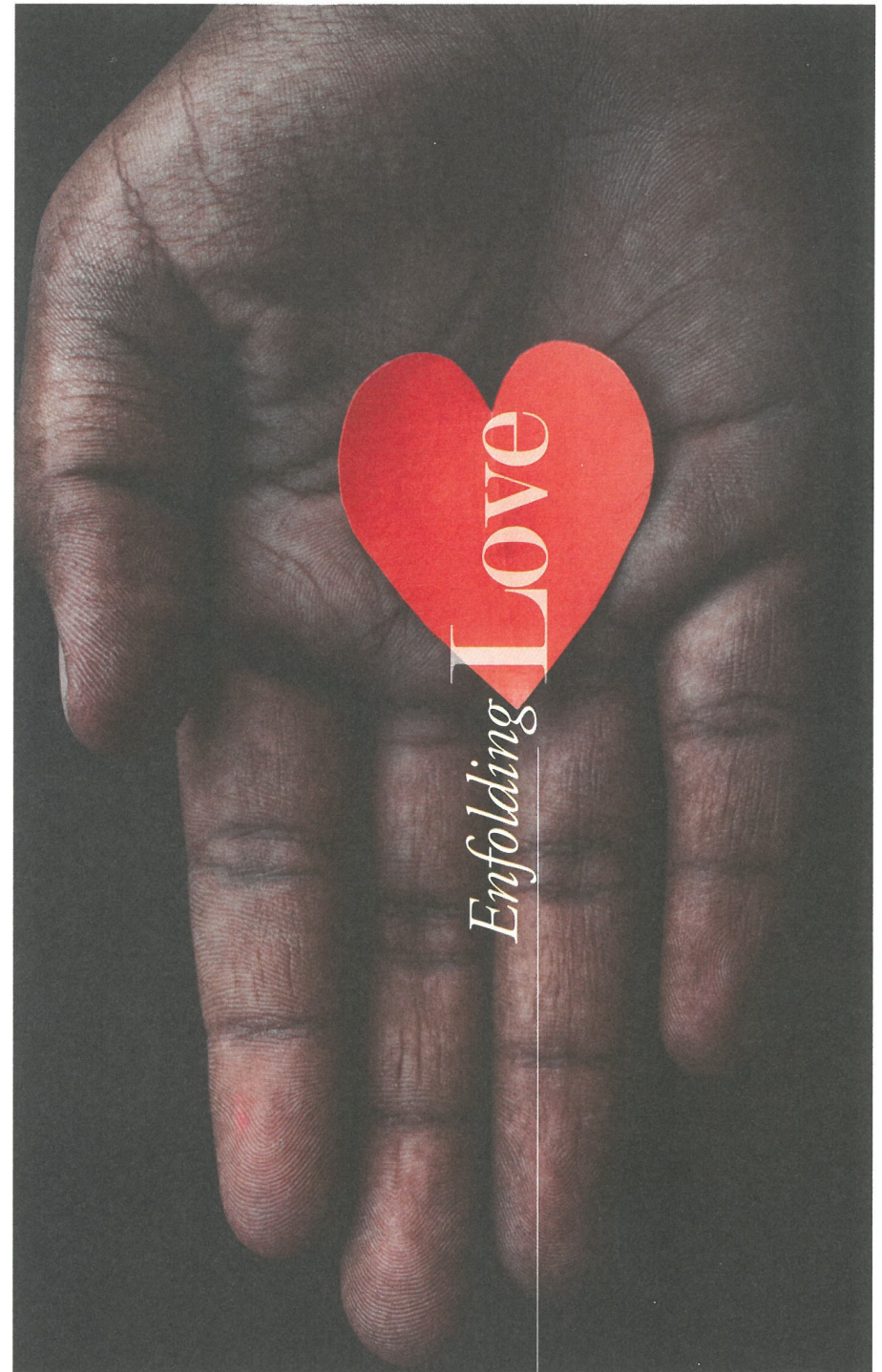
What if the pressing question isn't about the lawfulness of divorce, but more about the condition of our hearts?

Loving God, we pray for Your enfolding love to come into our lives — revive relationships that are languishing, mend families who are torn, and grant peace and understanding for those whose partnerships have ended. May our hearts soften and beat in sync with Yours. Amen.



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
A United Church of Christ
(708) 865-1282

Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

**“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s
journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!**

October 6, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Welcome on behalf of our pastoral staff

Rev. Joseph E. Mills, III, Pastor 708/562-0759

Lawrence Underwood, Music Director

Joyce Kelstrom, Bell Choir Director

Pastor Vinod Wesley, Chicago Tamil Church Pastor

Altar Flowers:

Liturgist: Steve Scheffel

Ushers: Noreen Love and Shirley Patton

Westchester Community Church, United Church of Christ

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Westchester, IL 60154

708/865-1282

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Email: westcomchurch@hotmail.com

**(If you have a prayer request you’d like to share with us,
go to CHAT on your Zoom page and type it in
so we can share it with others)**

****ALSO REMEMBER TO MUTE YOUR ZOOM
SCREEN SO WE CAN HEAR THE PASTOR
UNLESS IT’S A TIME TO SHARE**

**FOR THOSE ON ZOOM AND
ANYTIME YOU WANT TO MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT**

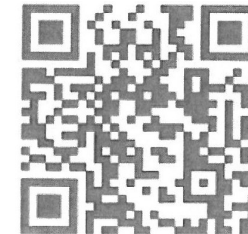
We truly encourage you to use our online giving tool,
Which you can access through our website.

When you are at home on Zoom, or away on trips,
Our bills here at church don’t go away.

We need your help!!

Remember to give, and if it is a special gift,

There is a way to make a note on the
Vanco page. Make clear what the donation
is for!!! Thank you!!



Manna news!!! Manna is a program where people order gift cards through the church, we order them through a company that gives us a discount on the cards and we keep the discount. So, you pay the value of the card, you GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR, and WE earn money. It’s a win, win. With each order the church pays the tax and shipping fees. Manna forms are available in the narthex and on the table outside the office. Manna orders & payment is due the last Sunday of the month, and are distributed by the 2nd Sunday of the month. Manna is great for gifts, donating for In-reach, and for places you shop. Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please see Charlene Dol-nics or Sue Becerra.



**HANDBELL
CHOIR**

Bell Choir is every Saturday from 8:30-9:15 in the Sanctuary. We welcome all new members! Please come and join us. No music experience needed.

Thank you, Joyce Kelstrom, Director

We grieve with family and friends in the death of **Cheryl Jargstorf**, sister to Pastor Mark Jargstorf, and our Scouting Troop #73 family in the death of long-time Scout leader **Bill Raysa**.

Save these dates - Harvest of Crafts is Saturday, November 16th and we need volunteers to work on this day. We also need volunteers to help set up on Wednesday, November 13th. We are selling Treasures and Trinkets items for \$2 or some items we make prices. As you do your Fall closet cleaning and find you would like to donate to Treasures and Trinkets please bring your items to the south basement or call Barb Mills for pickup 708-562-0759. Questions or if you wish to volunteer call Barb Mills!!

Our new Website is up and running!! You can access it at <https://westchesterucc.org> We hope you find it accessible and helpful!!!

BRING **empty RX bottles** and place them in the bin marked "RX bottles". Please remove any label and make sure they are clean.

Save the Date—Saturday December 7th
Razzle Dazzle Is Coming!

Parish Fellowship in appreciation for the women in our congregation, we put on a lovely luncheon followed by entertainment. Please make sure you mark your calendar for this popular and fun event! More info soon! Bring a friend!

Do you know of any youth Junior High and up interested in being part of our **Confirmation** program? We will begin classes early fall. Please see Pastor Mills.

Village Theatre Guild in Glen Ellyn presents "**Dr Cook's Garden**" on stage with evening and matinee performances from October 18th through November 9th.

Dave Dolnics serves as producer of the show, with Lisa Dolnics working behind the scenes as stage manager. For information and ticket reservations call 630.469.8230 or visit villagetheatreguild.org

WORSHIP SERVICE

"For what is love itself, for the one we love best? —an enfolding of immeasurable cares which yet are better than any joys outside our love."

—George Eliot

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

*WE PRAY TO BECOME NEW IN YOU #649
"Gather Us In"

*CALL TO WORSHIP Steve Scheffel

Leader: Everything is new because of You, O Lord!

People: **And we pray that we will begin to see as You see, and not as the world does.**

Leader: The world only sees what it wants to;

People: **You see what is possible, and what can bring life. You see what is sacred, and what is worth saving. You see what is beyond, and not simply what is in front. You see eternity, and glory forever!**

Leader: Through You, may we become new, O Lord -

ALL: AND MAY WE SEE ONE ANOTHER THROUGH YOUR SAVING LOVE AND WHAT IT IS TO BE A NEW CREATION. LET EVERYTHING WE DO REFLECT AND GIVE PRAISE TO THE LORD!!

A Reading from God's Holy Word Steve Scheffel
From the Epistles: II Corinthians 5:11-21 p. 139, NT, Pew Bible
p. 221, NT, Large Print

*A GLORIA PATRI #734

*"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen."*

WE PRAY TO THE LORD

#397

"The Gift of Love"

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Mills

THE LORDS PRAYER (Please Use Debts/Debtors)

THE MORNING OFFERING

Steve Scheffel

AN OFFERTORY

**(THOSE AT HOME, PLEASE SEND IN GIFTS BY CHECK
OR USE OUR ON-LINE GIVING)**

*THE DOXOLOGY

#34

*"Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."*

*A PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

We give to live and serve for others. We pray sanctity upon these gifts, that we will see them not merely as monies, but as holy offerings of life for our church and those around us. Dedicating this to You through Your Son and our Lord Jesus we would pray this. Amen.

THE MEDITATION—"How We Regard...."

Pastor Mills

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Mills

We Sing #690—"We Remember You," v. 1

*I. We remember you, we remember you:
By your sacrifice of love all glory now is due.
At this table here mercy hovers near.*

Thanks is offered up; in this bread and cup we remember you.

Words of Remembrance

The Invitation to Communion

The Sharing of the Elements

(For here, there is one plate for Gluten Free.

The Pastor will have it and if you wish to be served, just raise your hand at the appropriate time.

For those at home, feel free to use what you have at home to participate with us in this Sacrament)

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Put Peace into Each Other's Hands 389

1 Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands and like a
 2 Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands with lov - ing
 3 Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands, like bread we
 4 As at com - mu - nion, shape your hands in - to a
 5 Put Christ in - to each oth - er's hands, he is love's

treas - ure hold it; pro - tect it like a
 ex - pec - ta - tion; be gen - tle in your
 break for shar - ing; look peo - ple warm - ly
 wait - ing cra - dle; the gift of Christ re -
 deep - est meas - ure; in love make peace, give

can - dle flame, with ten - der - ness en - fold it.
 words and ways, in touch with God's cre - a - tion.
 in the eye: our life is meant for car - ing.
 ceive, re - vere, u - nit - ed round the ta - ble.
 peace a chance and share it like a treas - ure.

WORDS: Fred Kaan (1929-)
MUSIC: Irish melody
Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

ST. COLUMBA
8.7.8.7.

1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
 2 Though I may give all I pos - sess,
 3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol,

and have the gift to all in - spire,
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
 our spir - its long to be made whole.

and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be given by love with - in,
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;

as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

Through You we become new. May our eyes be opened to seeing others and the world through the Light of Your Resurrection, and through what it is to be forgiven in Your sight. Bless us now as we leave this table for service to You and ministry in Your Name, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*WE LIVE TO SERVE IN HIS NAME #389

"Put Peace into Each Other's Hands"

THE COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION Pastor Mills

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CALENDAR

TODAY

Worship 10 am

Chicago Tamil UCC Worship, 12:30 pm

Faith Conversations –Rose Room 11:30

WEDNESDAY

Zoom Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. THIS WEEK

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/961336622>

NEXT SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Worship

Noon - Chicago Tamil Worship

BIRTHDAYS THRU 10/13:

10/07 **Bonnie Clark, Robert Dalheim, Lauren Baran, Richard Kasey**

10/08 **Debbie Stanger**

10/10 **Peter Margaris, Daniel Bieber, Catherine Stanger**

10/11 **Tyler Blomeke**

10/13 **Wendy Lindstrom, Bobby Margaris**

THINKING AHEAD

Craft Workshop—Every Monday from 9:30-11:30. We are making crafts to sell at the November 16th Craft Sale

Sassy Stitchers—3rd Monday of the month at 7pm

Scrapbooking/Diamond Art—Thursday, October 24th- 9 am-9 pm, Friday, October 25th 9am-11pm, and Saturday, October 26th 9am-9pm

PRAYER REQUESTS:

PEOPLE AT THEIR HOMES:

John Mika, Allan Boyd, Cindy Cox, Ed Monahan, Karen Hart, Bill & Maggie Smith, George Long, Mary Kay Baca, Virginia Hodina, Chuck Yeiser, Linda Belice, Dave Vrablic, Emil Poprawski, Marilyn Sinde, Bettyann Richeson, Benny Locigno, Ellie Merritt, Pat VonLaven, Barb Sweazey, Sandra Bradley, James

Hixon, Jeanie Rowe, Allen Meskan, Aldona Kitt, Judy Frandsen, Kim Powers, Don Smith, Mark Henning, Serena Ivers & Chris, Elayne Dalheim, Patricia Ladner, Michael Kelstrom, Patrick McCarthy, Elaine Dildine

FRIENDS IN PRAYERS: Bill and Kimble Compton, Bob and Jean, Sherri Cozzi, Drake Dennis/Family, Dylan & Dyson, Bill Ernst, Father Neil Fackler, Ashley Feeny, Nancy Fiala-Zinn, Herman Goodloe, Kyle Hall, Karen and Bob; Karen Hekr, Helen Hicks, Mary Ann, Larry, Tom Lindsey, Julie McGee, Julie McLean, Frieda McKinnon, Leslie Mills, Amy Morlier, Betty Moticka, Eric Odelson, Pat (cousin to Linda Belice), Connie Petrik, Diana & Larry Ridener, Scott Rouse, Gary Schultz, Nan and Walt Shaughnessy, Anthony Taylor, Patricia Traylor, Ron Tulke, Lawrence Underwood Jr., Gwendolyn and Bob Westlund, Monica Wojdziak, Charles Woodman, Adam Zellman

OUR MILITARY: Samantha Brown (overseas), Tyler Kimbler (Ft. Bragg, NC), Jay & Bri Mills (Ft. Bliss, Texas), Malik Taylor—Norfolk, VA, Anthony Taylor—Ft. Hood, TX; Nick Weeks—Peace Corp. South Africa

HOSPITALIZED/Long-Term: Marilyn Sinde—Plymouth Place; Joe Mills (Pastor Joe's dad) - Virginia Mason Rehab—Tacoma, WA; Candice Phoenix—Illinois Masonic; Donna Hansen—Tennessee, Jim Craver (our Jim's father)—Nursing Facility, Sara Zellman—the Pearl, Hinsdale; Marylu Mills - in Hospice, Tacoma, WA; Lil Klippel - The Radcliffe; Steve Tomporowski - Wisconsin; Rosemarie Kosik (Terra Vista, OakBrook Terrace)



649

Gather Us In

Unison D A/C# C G Gm/Bb Dm

1 Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, shad-ows of doubt are
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
3 Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
4 Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

C G D A/C# C G

van-ished a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

A C/G D/F# G A C/G

Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in; our
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and

D/F# G A D A/C# C G

spir-its in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D C/D Bb/D- D

we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.