

March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent
“No Matter What”
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Only a portion of Psalm 107 is suggested for the reading today by the lectionary committee. But the psalm in its entirety is worth studying. Each verse reminds the reader of those who have, in moments of extremity, called upon God. The suffering of refugees, the imprisoned, the hungry and enslaved is told, bookended by the miracle of God’s saving power that has visited those who suffered. What response can there be the overflowing gratitude of grateful hearts?

Today, many UCC congregations will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Like the psalmist generations ago, our hearts break at the suffering around us. And as humans capable of holding many emotions at once, we also feel deep gratitude in situations where we see that suffering has been alleviated. Like the psalmist in those moments, we join with multitudes in offering the overflowing gratitude of our hearts back to God.

Today, One Great Hour of Sharing is one way we can co-create with God in shaping a compassionate and just response to the suffering in our nation and world.

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>

“One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women’s empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.”