

Faith United Methodist Church
First Sunday in Lent *March 1, 2020*
God's People Gather to Worship at 9:00 am

Happy isn't a mood we associate with the season of Lent. Lent seems to call for something a little more somber, reflective, and inward looking. Certainly, the Lenten journey calls for attention to the inner self and the working of spiritual disciplines in the life of the individual and the community of faith.

OPENING PRAYER

As we worship, Heavenly God, remind us that you have created us above all creatures with a wonderful consciousness of ourselves and a marvelous potential for spirituality. Help us to seek and find our identities in you and your Word, that, properly centered, our lives may become holy, godly, and worthy to bear the name of the Christ, in which we pray. Amen.

GREETING The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

All *The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

Leader One thing I ask of the Lord, that will I seek after:

All *To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.*

† OPENING HYMN 328 Surely the Presence of the Lord

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, you call to me where I live, where I work, where I play. You speak to me in my language. If I have ignored your call, I pledge to listen now. I hear you call, Lord Jesus. You are Lord of my life. Lord Jesus, yes. To your call I say, "Yes."

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION Musical Interlude *Jeff Murphy*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

How has the tempter come to you in these days? Let us remember now that his deadly spell is broken by Christ and life restored. By the power of the one who alone conquers evil, your sins are forgiven.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Loving God, you have so made us that we cannot live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from your mouth. Give us a hunger for your Word, and in that food, satisfy our daily need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1, 6 *Page 2, pew Bible*

† NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 4:1-11 *Page 682, pew Bible*

OFFERTORY

Leader: To live out your word, O Yahweh, is our desire. In lifting up these gifts we say to the

world: there is one God, creator, redeemer and sustainer of all things. In lifting up these gifts we say to the world: you make all life holy. As we release what we have clung to so desperately, we pray that you would hold on to us, so that we might live out your love.

DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow *Page 95, UMH*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar, understanding that we have already received the greatest gift of all: the forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, through the sacrifice of your Son. Bless our gifts for the unfinished work of your kingdom. Remind us as we worship here that this redemption of our lives did not come without price. Help us so that we might live always as agents of that boundless love and mercy, making it real to others. Knowing we cannot earn this forgiveness, this wiping clean of our ledger, we can only hope to reflect such grace and compassion in our encounters with others. In his name, we pray. Amen. (Psalm 32)

† HYMN 526 What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Vs 1-2)

SERMON *The Greatest Temptation of All* Rev. David A. E. Whitt

INVITATIONAL HYMN Have Thine Own Way, Lord (Vs 3-4)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Eternal God, thank you for loving us and all creation, and for never abandoning us. Thank you for Jesus who understood human bondage and sought to free us all. For his awareness that we all long to return to the source of good, we are grateful. For his understanding that the human situation includes wrong behaviors and dreadful consequences, we thank you. Give us patience to be relieved of anyone or anything that is between us and thy will. Give us patience to return to the soul's home.

LORD'S PRAYER (...TRESPASSES)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF JOYS

HOLY COMMUNION (SEE INSERT)

† CLOSING HYMN 393 Spirit of the Living God

† BENEDICTION

Go out into the world in the righteousness of Christ. Do not hide your sin, but trust in God who gives mercy and love. Do not be afraid to face the wilderness, but do not compromise with evil. And may God be your shelter to save you from ruin. May Christ be your teacher and show you the path to walk. And may the Spirit encircle you with songs of freedom.

All: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. Amen.

† HYMN 666 Shalom to You