

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

10:30 a.m.

OUR LORD'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

There's a Place for You Here



GATHERING TOGETHER

Reflection for Worship Today

God's love for humanity explodes like light from a supernova in these lections. And, for love to be fully realized, it demands a response. The appropriate response to God's love is faith.

Prelude

Welcome

One voice: Good morning, Church! I see you!

ALL voices: I am here!

Graceful Engagement

*Call to Worship

One: Lenten travelers, the journey is long. Let us take a moment to rest and breathe.

ALL: Only in God do we find our rest.

One: Sometimes the road is easy, and we bask in the warmth of the Light who guides us.

ALL: Other times the road is hard, and we hide from the Light, afraid for our actions to be made known in public.

One: Somedays we delight in the joy of journeying together on this road.

ALL: Other days we struggle with the temptation to judge and condemn one another as we travel this path.

One: Today, let us come into the Light together as we learn to love God and one another through the twists and turns of our Lenten journey.

ALL: Come, let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" *all* UMH 206

*Unison Prayer

Great Triune God, we have gathered here in Your name as an act of faith, believing that You are among us and that You love us. It is often hard to recognize Your love, see Your mercy, and feel Your presence. Help us today in our worship, that we might be transparent to Your grace, as You reveal Yourself to each one of us. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Children's Time

One: And, Jesus said... **ALL: Let the children come!**

Handbell Anthem "It Is Well With My Soul" by Philip P. Bliss, 1876
directed and arr. by Becky Perreault

Scripture Reading Focus Text: John 3:14-21 CEB

Response

One: The Word of God for ALL of us - God's people.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Loving the Light"

RESPONDING TOGETHER

Call to Prayer "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" vs. 5, 6 UMH 357

Lighting Our Way

Witness

One: Light still comes. Can you see it?

ALL: Even when we're vulnerable, in pain and scared, God invites us to see light in the darkness. Lord, help us to be willing light bearers through the faithful living of our lives. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer for the Cares of the People

(please text prayers to 414-378-4012)

*Invitation to Giving Action

We commit our time, talent, treasure, willingness to serve and gift of witness out into the world as we bring our offerings.

*Lenten Doxology

TUNE: REDHEAD 77.77.77 (UMH 290)

**Praise the Source who gives us life.
Praise to Christ, who shares our strife.
Praise the Spirit, who sustains,
bearing us through grief and pain.
To the holy Trinity glory, praise, and honor be.**

*Blessing Prayer

God of unwavering love, You have held nothing back in Your love for us, not even Your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love, and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to You. As we dedicate our offerings to You, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance You have called us to be. In Christ, we pray. Let it be so.

*Responsive Sending Forth

**One: God's great love and rich mercy have made us alive in Christ.
ALL: Let us depart to live lives of grace, and to do good works.**

*Final Blessing

*Closing Hymn "How Great Thou Art" vs. 1, 4

UMH 77

*Postlude

Notes:

Lectionary readings: Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

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Highlighting, with gratitude, these servant leaders for today...

Tech: Joe Whyms, Dave Smith, **Izzy Veit, Wendi Haubert**
Worship leaders: Amy Veit, Sophia Veit, Debbie Huyck,
Pat Mehring, Chuck Garrigues, Tony Suminski
Ken Miller, Mary Schulz, Wendi Haubert, **Sue
Schulkers**

Light bearer: Kathy Depies
Musicians: Sue Broker, Sue
Schulkers, **Dave Smith (midi)**
Coffee host: Don Mains

Handbell choir: Sue Schulkers, Kelly Fowler, Lois McGarry, Debbie Huyck, Pat Garrigues, Karen Haubert, Chris Clements, Becky Perreault

CBA: Wendi Haubert/finance@ourlordsumc.org
Office Administrator: Tabitha Manning/office@ourlordsumc.org
Pastor: Kelly Fowler/pastorkelly@ourlordsumc.org

*Find us on Facebook and watch our live-streamed Sunday services at www.facebook.com/OurLordsUMC/

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Worship resource: **Ministry Matters**, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/>, **Discipleship Ministries**, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>, Doxology from "Praising God: The Trinity in Christian Worship", by Ruth C. Duck and Patricia Wilson-Kastner

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