

Fifth Sunday in Lent

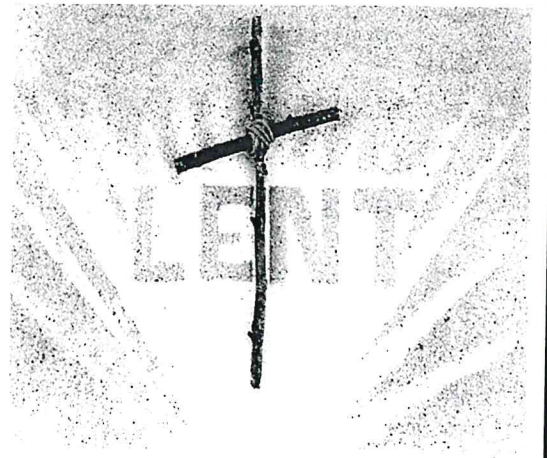
March 17, 2024

10:30 a.m.

OUR LORD'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

There's a Place for You Here



GATHERING TOGETHER

Reflection for Worship Today

At this stage of our Lenten journey, we encounter the fruit and the charge that comes with losing our life to find it in God—service.

Prelude

Welcome

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

ALL voices: I am here!

Graceful Engagement

*Call to Worship

One: Lenten travelers, how long have you traveled this road with your gaze pointed down at the dust and gravel and asphalt as you walk or limp or roll down the path?

ALL: Sometimes it is easier to look at the road than at the people who share the journey with us.

One: Lift up your heads! Look, listen, reach out a hand. Who are your neighbors on this road?

ALL: We lift our heads and look to our Savior who journeys with us and helps us notice our neighbors all around us.

One: This is the Lenten journey—to learn to love God and love our neighbors just as Jesus showed us.

ALL: Our journey teaches us to lose our lives to God as we find and follow Christ in our service to others.

cont.

One: Come, let us worship God who caravans with us on this road to the cross.

ALL: Come, let us worship!

*Opening Hymn “And Are We Yet Alive” vs. 1, 2, 6

UMH 553

*Unison Prayer

Lord, we know Easter is coming soon and while we anxiously wait to celebrate Your triumphant victory over sin and death, there are still difficult days between now and then. And try as we might, we cannot comprehend love and mercy so great as this. There is nothing perfect about us, yet You beckon us with hands that soon will be scarred by betrayal, greed, selfishness, pettiness, pride, and apathy. You see us and our imperfections with compassionate and patient eyes as we struggle to rid our lives of all the worldly things that distort, distract, and entangle us. As the cross looms ahead, our eyes and our focus are on You and You alone for our redemption and salvation. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Children’s Time

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

Scripture Reading “A Grain of Wheat Must Die” John 12:20-33 MSG

Response

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Whoever Serves”

RESPONDING TOGETHER

Call to Prayer “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” vs. 2, 3

UMH 452

Lighting Our Way

Witness - Sophia Veit

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)

The Lord's Prayer ALL Together

UMH 895

*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 the ages, we share our tithes and offerings this day with You, but we acknowledge that most of the time, we are clinging tightly to what we have, afraid we might lose something we need and afraid somehow there won't be enough to live our lives. The scarcity mindset overtakes us, and it robs us of the joy of our days. Remind us that Jesus has called us to be ready to let go of this life so that we might claim the abundance of life eternal. In our redeemer's name, we pray. Let it be so.

*Responsive Sending Forth

One: Beloved, go from this place to seek and find the glory of Christ wherever you go.

ALL: We go blessed to recognize Christ as we notice, meet, and serve our neighbors today and every day.

*Final Blessing

*Postlude

Lectionary readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

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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

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/

*Visit us on our website at www.ourlordsumc.org

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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