

Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025
9:45 a.m.

OUR LORD'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
There's a Place for You Here



GATHERING TOGETHER

For Today

(Dave Moyer, Caldwell UMC)

Avoiding our neighbor for our own table is a rejection of the values that nourish life. Luke's parable shows us the cost of avoiding our responsibility. The invitation to repentance is one to "dig in", to get up close in the muck, with ourselves and with others – not to hold our efforts back.

*As you view and participate in this worship please note that **bolded text** invites ALL to voice.*

Prelude "Agnus Dei"

by Giuseppe Verdi

Welcome

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

ALL voices: I am here!

Graceful Engagement

(Mary Schulz, Our Lord's UMC)

*Opening Chorus "As the Deer"

FWS 2025

*Call to Worship

(Tony Suminski, Our Lord's UMC)

The love of God is a call to turn around
To cease moving in the direction of evil
To cast our loyalty with prophets of freedom
To accept accountability, refusing avoidance
The love of God is not a force of punishment
It calls us into liberation
Jesus reveals the way, the truth, and the life
Our teacher in honest living.

*Unison Prayer

Merciful One, these days overwhelm us! At times, our prayer is simply to get by, hiding from all that asks more of us. And yet, we remember Jesus' promise of a yoke that is easy and a burden that is light. Teach us, O God, how to live lives made lighter by love and easier through community. We are ready to release what ensnares us. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Children's Message

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

Children's Time in the Wesley Room

ALL children are invited to join together just outside the Sanctuary.

Handbell Anthem "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

Hans Hassler/J.S. Bach, arr. by Becky Perreault

Scripture Reading Focus texts: Isaiah 55:1-9 CEB

Luke 13:1-9 CEB (*Don Foster, Caldwell UMC*)

Response

This is the Word of God for ALL of us, God's people.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Repenting from Avoidance"

Rev. Kerri Parker

RESPONDING TOGETHER

(please text prayers to 414-378-4012 and Pastor Kelly will receive them)

Response Song "We're ALL On The Way" vs. R, 1, 2, R

by Jacob Nault

(see bulletin insert)

Caring for Community

Call to Prayer "We're ALL On the Way" vs. 3, R

by Jacob Nault

(see bulletin insert)

A Prayer for the Day "Root Us in Love"

by Rev. Cameron Trimble, in part

The Lord's Prayer ALL Together

UMH 895

*Invitation to Giving Action

In addition to sharing our material resources, may we also take seriously our attention, our time, our energy. To whom and to what do we offer these gifts of our lives? Let us bring them together in service to the past and future, seeking healing, seeking repair. Come; bring your offerings and share a moment of hospitality and greeting saying:

One: The peace of Christ be with you! ALL: And, also with you!

*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

Spirit of Truth, You call us together, not to escape the troubles of the world but to companion each other honestly through them. Bless these resources to our shared action and accountability. That we may face, head on, what is aching for our attention, our care, our tending. We trust You to sustain us on the journey. Amen.

*Responsive Sending Forth

May we not be afraid to confront and be confronted
For accountability is an act of love!
May we not be afraid to welcome change,
to learn more about ourselves and each other.
May we not be afraid to lose our lives to save them,
for ours is a faithful God, with whom we can entrust our care.

*Final Blessing

*Hymn "Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)" vs. 2, R, 3, R

UMH 583

*Postlude "Just a Closer Walk With Thee"

by Kenneth Morris

Please welcome Rev. Kerri Parker

Rev. Kerri Parker (she/her) has been Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches since 2017. During her tenure, the Council has become known nationwide for its leadership in faith-based COVID response, fresh ecumenical vision, and collaborations for racial equity. In 2023 she was honored with the United Church of Christ's Avery D. Post Ecumenical Award. She has served as a local church pastor and YWCA executive. Her wider church work includes the Christian Unity & Interfaith Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Wisconsin Conference UCC Board, and UCC General Synod Delegate. Rev. Parker preaches/teaches widely around Wisconsin and has co-authored study-action guides on Faith & Gun Violence and Jesus & Justice in Public. She contributed to the book "There's a Woman in the Pulpit" (Skylight Paths, 2015). Rev. Parker earned her MDiv from Chicago Theological Seminary. She is a DMin candidate at Iliff School of Theology. Beyond church and family, Rev. Parker's passions are stories, show tunes, and justice.

**Need hearing assistance? Hearing assist devices are available.
Visit our tech room and someone will help you.**

Lectionary readings: Isaiah 55:1-9 "Come to the water"; Psalm 63:1-8 "O God, eagerly I seek you"; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 "Israel, baptized in cloud and seas"; Luke 13:1-9 "The parable of the fig tree"

Thank you for worshipping with us at Our Lord's!



Scan this QR code using the camera on your phone to contribute a gift to support our church and its ministries. Explore more of our website by clicking the "Our Lord's" header at the top of the page. There you'll find past worship services, information regarding our various ministries, and much more!

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

Wendi Haubert, Izzy Veit, Dave Smith, Rebecca Landgraf, Kathy Depies, Decker Henninger, Sue Schulkers, Mary Schulz, Tony Suminski, Dave Moyer, Don Foster, Karen Haubert, Don Mains, the OLUMC handbell choir (Sue Schulkers, Lois McGarry, Chris Clements, Karen Haubert, Pat Garrigues, Lynda McDowell, Becky Perreault, Terry Chipman, Keith Chipman, Tabitha Manning), guest preacher Rev. Kerri Parker

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/>, Wisconsin Council of Churches Lenten Series

CCLI Copyright license: 1623710 Streaming license: 20992670



Connect

Network: OurLordsNet Guest
Password: abcd1234

Our Lord's United Methodist Church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Potawatomi, Sioux (Ochethi Sakowin), Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, and Peoria people's.