LAUREL HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 22, 2020

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome to Sunday Worship

As we gather, we celebrate the unique gifts God has given to all, believing that our many backgrounds and identities are essential to the shared offering we bring to God through worship, study, friendship, and serving.

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

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Gather to Worship

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP after Psalm 118:24

This is the day that God has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the season to which God has called us,
the season of embrace and surrender, dying and rising, cross and resurrection.
This is the journey along which the Spirit is surely moving.
Let us open ourselves to encounters with Jesus upon this chosen way.

HYMN OF PRAISE ***I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath*** Muffin Russell, soloist

I'll praise my maker while I've breath;
and when my soul is lost in death,
praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past,
while life, and thought and being last,
or immortality endures.

The Lord pours eyesight on the blind;
the Lord supports the fainting mind
and gives the laboring conscience peace.
God helps the stranger in distress,
the widow and the fatherless,
and grants the prisoner sweet release.

OPENING PRAYER

New every morning is your love, O God, and in the brightness of your light
we seek to be about the works of light—kindness, courage, engendering faith.
Illumine us from within, that we may shine with the brightness of hope,
dispelling all darkness, all dimness and fear.
This we pray through Christ, the world's Light. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME Laura Healy

GOSPEL LESSON John 9:1-41

HYMN ***Come and Join the Song*** Muffin Russell, soloist

All that I can see, Jesus saw in me.
Night has turned to day; I am newly free.
Come and join the song, women, children, men;
Jesus makes us free to live again.

SERMON Rev. Diana Phillips

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Romans 8:35, 37-39

Leader:
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine,
or nakedness or peril or sword?

People:

No! In all these things we are more than conquerors
through the One who loved us.
We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that there are times we claim to see perfectly well when in fact we are overlooking hurtful words, blind to harmful behavior, and unseeing when it comes to human need beyond our own close circles of care. Forgive us our spiritual blindness, and lead us into the light, that we may live as bearers of that light in places of darkness and despair.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear this good news: Nothing, not even our own failings,
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

INVITATION

HYMN ***Christ Is the World's Light*** Muffin Russell, soloist

Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other,
born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none other,
no one can serve him and despise another.
Who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.

BENEDICTION

LITURGIST

Katie Myers

Come and Join the Song

Verses ~ Paul Escamilla, 2020
Refrain ~ Brian Wren, 1982
Music ~ Charles H. Webb, 1987

Verse 1: In the wilderness, Jesus' hunger grew;
God's word was his bread; angels saw him through.

Verse 2: Nicodemus waits in the dark of night,
as though in a womb, longing for the light.

Verse 3: Stranger at the well, you would speak to me?
You would quench my thirst? You would set me free?

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

You may continue to submit a prayer requests by
calling the church office (210) 733-7156, through Facebook Messenger,
or by emailing prayers@mylhumc.org.

Healing: David Bebinger (*Ann Wheeler*), William Beuhler, Diane Boehme, Dianna Buxkemper (*Teresa Garces*), Marilyn Cook (*Ann Wheeler*), Armando Diaz (*Sandra Ojeda Medina*), Mal Hierholzer, Estelle Hogan, Gracie Huron, Hanna McCuistion (*Vicki McCuistion*), Shirley Melennyzer (*Teresa Garces*), Alan Nichols (*John David Griffin*), Dean Pearson, Beth Rankin (*Ann Wheeler*), Dr. Franklin Redmond, Doug Semmes, David Shelden, Sr., Darlene Shirey (*Wendell Davis*), Elden Stalnaker (*Roxane Darnell*).
For Those Who Mourn: Esther Chalk, at the loss of her cousin, Mark Aguilar.
Leana Turbeville, at the loss of her brother, Rev. Justin Jones.
God's Presence: Those affected by the COVID-19 virus and their families, as well as for the caregivers and research scientists working to treat those affected and combat the spread of the disease, homebound members, the incarcerated, and women and men in our military.