

Centenary United Methodist Church
Our Mission: “Love God, Serve Others”
Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 19, 2023
Liturgical color, Purple, represents both royalty and penitence
Traditional, 11:00 am

PRELUDE

INTROIT (*in response*)

Be glad in the Lord,

Rejoice and shout for joy, you upright in heart. AMEN.

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** “Out of the Depths” **2136*

***OPENING PRAYER** (*unison; Psalm 32:10-11*)

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like an unruly horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous; shout for joy, all you upright in heart! AMEN.

***THE PASSING OF PEACE**

***PRAYER RESPONSE** “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”

RESPONSIVE READING (*unison; Psalm 32:1-9*)

Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

When I did not declare my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”; then you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore, let those who are godly offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of great waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me, you preserve me from trouble; you encompass me with deliverance. AMEN.

ANTHEM “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” arr. Marianne Kim

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE; Joys and Concerns (*Adopted from the Book of Worship 395*)

God of eternity: You are present with us because of Christ’s rising from the dead, and you persist in lifting us to new life in him. We bring to you our prayers for this world in need of resurrection.

Especially, we pray for nations and peoples in strife... (*You may voice your prayers*). Lord in your mercy.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the poor and impoverished, at home and abroad... Lord in your mercy.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those we know in particular times of distress . . . Lord in your mercy.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are ill and the sick . . . Lord in your mercy.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the gift of life... Lord in your mercy.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who lost their loved ones . . . Lord in your mercy.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who follow the risen Christ and for the ministry of the church . . . Lord in your mercy.

Lord, hear our prayer, Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*unison*)

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, the power and the glory, forever, AMEN.

MISSION MOMENT Susan Bergmeier

OFFERTORY “God and God Alone” arr. Mary McDonald

***DOXOLOGY** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” (*Sung to the tune of 95*)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*unison; Joel 2:13*)

Rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE Art Moore

First lesson 1 Samuel 16:6-13

Second lesson Ephesians 5:8-14

***GOSPEL READING** John 9:13-17

SERMON “Lawful but Wrong”

***CLOSING HYMN** “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” **348**

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

*If you are comfortable, please stand; **Bold-** Join in response, **The Faith We Sing