

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday 21 March 2021**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements

Greeting\*\*: If any want to become my followers,  
let them deny themselves and take up their cross  
and follow me.

**For those who want to save their life will lose it,  
and those who lose their life  
for my sake and for the sake of the gospel,  
will save it. (Mark 8:34b-35)**

Opening Prayer:

Almighty God, your blessed Son was led by the Spirit  
to be tempted by Satan.

**Come quickly to help us who are assaulted  
by many temptations.**

**And, as you know the weakness of each of us,  
let each one find you mighty to save;  
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

*(The Book of Common Prayer, U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.)*

Opening Hymn: 257 (Tune: 73) "We Meet You, O Christ"

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for Illumination\*\*: **Teach me to hear in silence,  
to listen and understand,  
in quiet communion with you.  
Amen.**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

(2)

Psalter: *(Insert: Alternate Leader and people)* Psalm 51:1-12

Second Lesson: Hebrews 5:5-10

Hymn of Preparation: 420 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God "

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Sermon: *"Both."*

Affirmation of Faith: 880 "The Nicene Creed"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

The Peace: Let us offer one another signs  
of reconciliation and love.  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**THANKSGIVING**

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people,  
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offertory

Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Thanksgiving\*\*:

**O God, most merciful and gracious,  
of whose bounty we have all received,  
accept this offering of your people.  
Remember in your love those who have brought it  
and those for whom it is given,  
and so follow it with your blessing  
that it may promote peace and goodwill  
among all peoples,**

(3)

**and advance the kingdom of our Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ. Amen.** ( *Presbyterians, U.S.A.,  
20th Cent.*)

The Lord's Prayer: 895

**SENDING FORTH**

Closing Hymn: 159 "Lift High the Cross"

Blessing\*\*: God be in your head, and in your understanding.  
**God be in your eyes, and in your looking.**  
God be in your mouth, and in your speaking.  
**God be in your heart, and in your thinking.**  
God be at your end, and at your departing.  
**Amen.** (*Sarum Liturgy, England, 13th Century*)

Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude/Going Forth

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As mentioned in last week's announcements, our sincere thanks went to Ms Cathleene J. Miles, principal of Abbottston Elementary-Middle School for speaking to the 10:30 service about education and faith and sharing lunch afterwards with us on this Sunday three years ago, and to all who made that experience possible for Bethesda. Any ideas for continuing a relationship with her and Abbottston Elementary/Middle School, and also for supporting the principal at Hamilton Elementary/Middle School?

Please come next Sunday, 28 March, Palm/Passion Sunday, prepared to share in the reading of the Passion story. A copy of the text will be made available if you volunteer today.

(4)

Shall we have Holy Thursday service on-line 1 April @ 6:30 p.m.?

Also, please plan to join us on line 4 April for Easter service @ 10:30 (no 8:30 service).