

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 26 March 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements *(To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew)*

*Greeting**:
It is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ ---
**If, in fact, we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.**
(Romans 8:16-17)

*Praise Choruses:

2166 "Christ Beside Me"

2110 "Why Has God Forsaken Me?"

*Opening Prayer**:

O Lord our God, teach us temperance and self-control,
that we may live in the Spirit
and be mindful of all that Jesus endured and sacrificed
for our sakes,
and how he was made perfect through sufferings.

**Help us so to keep the fast that you have chosen,
that we may loose the bonds of wickedness,
undo the heavy burdens,
and let the oppressed go free;
through the grace of Christ Jesus
our crucified and risen Savior. Amen.**

(Henry van Dyke, U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.)

*Opening Hymn: 368 "My Hope Is Built"

(2)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: Page 6 UMH

First Lesson: Ezekiel 38:1-14

Psalter: 848 Psalm 130

Second Lesson: Romans 8:6-11

*Hymn of Preparation: 500 "Spirit of God, Descend
Upon My Heart"

*Gospel Lesson: John 11:1-45

Sermon: "If only..."

Affirmation of Faith: 887 "Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39"

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/Offerory

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

(3)

*Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving**:

O God, source of all that makes life possible,
giver of all that makes life good:

**We gather to give you our thanks,
yet we confess that we have often failed
to live our thankfulness.**

Forgive us, O God.

**In this hour of worship, accept our thanksgiving;
and teach us to make gratitude and sharing
our way of life;**

through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Paul J. Flucke, U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.)

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 422 "Jesus, Thine All-Victorious Love"

*Closing Prayer**:

Eternal God, you raised from the dead our Lord Jesus,
and by your Holy Spirit brought to life your Church.

**Breathe upon us again with your spirit
and give new life to your people,
through the same Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

*Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

** THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF WORSHIP

Copyright (C) 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House