

# MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE (HOME EDITION)

## Fourth Sunday in Lent (UMCOR Sunday)

March 22, 2020

### Vulnerable, Blind, and Alone We Still Gather at God's Feet

Morning Call to Worship:

The Holy One shows us the way,  
even when we do not know where to go.

**We are called to live as children of light,  
abiding in all that is good and right and true.**

The Holy One leads us in pleasant places,  
filling our hearts with the waters of life.

**We are called to follow Jesus, bringing Christ's light into the shadows.**

The Holy One shows us the paths of peace, comforting us in times of trouble.

**We are called to become the body of Christ,  
pouring out our lives for the healing of the world.**

Hymn of Strength....."Great Is Thy Faithfulness".....#140

#### **Prayer of Confession:**

Light of the World, Maker of Visions, Spirit of Truth, you have called us to be light for the world. **We hide in the shadows, afraid to let anyone see us as we really are.** You call us to see the pain of others, to comfort the suffering and to be channels of your love. **Yet we close our eyes to the misery around us, afraid to change the way things have always been done.** You call us to show your beauty and truth, in all that we say and in all that we do. **Forgive us, Holy One, when we refuse to see the gifts you spread before us for the healing of your world. Amen.**

- *(please take a moment to offer prayers of confession to God in silence)* -

#### **Assurance of Pardon:**

The One who is Light of the World restores us, guiding us onto right paths and filling us with light.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are loved and forgiven!

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**Our cups overflow with God's loving mercy. Glory to God! Amen.**

Psalter.....Psalm 23.....#137

#### **A Prayer for Healing and Protection:**

*(also please be in active prayer for those named on the back of the bulletin)*

Lord, we admit that we are anxious and afraid. The spread of the coronavirus is happening rapidly and throughout the world. We don't know what will happen next or how we will be impacted. We want to cling to control or somehow prepare more fully, yet we know that You are ultimately in control of our lives. Lord, we praise You in the midst of this storm of life and worship You as king and ruler over all. We pray for healing for those who are sick. Help them recover fully. We pray for those who

have lost loved ones into death. Bring comfort and peace that only You can provide. We pray for protection. We come to Your throne of grace asking for You to stop the spread of this virus. We ask that our family, loved ones, and communities be protected and not become sick. We pray for medical providers. Give them wisdom to know the best course of action to take. We pray for those in roles of service. Give them strength to complete their tasks. We pray for leaders, government officials, and those in authority that they would have the knowledge and desire to make decisions in the best interests of the people they serve. We pray for those in the media, that they would give us the information we need without creating fear or panic. Lord, You are in control of all things and we place our lives into Your hands. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**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.

#### Hear God Speak and Call to Us

Prayer for Illumination: **Open our mind's eye, O God. Prepare our hearts to receive your call in our lives, through the word we hear proclaimed. Wake us to your truths. Use your word to set us along the right path this day. May the meditations of our hearts be pleasing and acceptable to you. Amen.**

Epistle Lesson.....Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel Lesson.....John 9:1-41

Sermon....."I Was Blind, But Now I See"

#### Sense the Healing Presence of Christ's Light

\*Hymn of Repentance...."Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior".....#351

\*Affirmation of Faith...."The Apostles' Creed".....#881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering – **Please consider giving a donation to UMCOR today.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:** God of our waking, receive these gifts with thanksgiving, that they may bring the goodness of our ministry to Your world. Bless them and multiply them to relieve the suffering of your people, to train and equip UMCOR staff and volunteers, to create wholeness instead of brokenness. Light our paths, and shine through our lives, as we continue to follow you. Amen.

#### Strengthened By Sight and Unity We Still Go Forth Together

\*Hymn of Grace....."Open My Eyes, That I May See".....#454

**Benediction:** Go forth, stirred by God's call, staying true to the path lit by Christ, and awakened to the work of the Holy Spirit, who is your helper and guide in the midst of these trying times.

Announcements & Upcoming Events:

- ❖ **Please consider giving a donation to UMCOR today.** UMCOR focuses on disaster preparedness, recovery and response as well as relocation and sustainable development. Your offering ensures UMCOR's response in times of crisis so that 100% of gifts to UMCOR help those who need it most.
- ❖ **Services and gatherings are postponed until after March 31.**
- ❖ All Holy Week Worship Services at First UMC have been cancelled.
- ❖ **Maundy Thursday** Service of Holy Communion: **Apr. 9 at 6pm**
- ❖ **Good Friday** Service of the Passion of Jesus Christ: **Apr. 10 at 10am**
- ❖ **Easter** Sunrise Service, followed by breakfast in the fellowship hall and an Easter Egg Hunt after breakfast: **Apr. 12 at 7am**

Lectionary Readings for (Fifth Sunday in Lent):

Ezekiel 37:1-14                  Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11                  John 11:1-45

*Our Mission Statement:*

*The mission of Bethel United Methodist Church & Monticello UMC is to make each and every man, woman, and child whom we reach aware of God's love for them as it is revealed to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and to give them an opportunity to worship and to serve our Lord.*

The Churches Are in Prayer For:

**Monticello UMC-** Carol & Ray Ball, Elen Bradley, Mack Bradley, Allen Brock, Sammie Burley, the Cassellas Family, Darlene Coker, Robert Davis, Noelani Dirnbauer, Nita Goff, Lenny Goldman, Lindsey Gunter & the Gunter family, Sandra Harrison, Carolyn Hinson, Jenny and Quinn Kaderly, Kevin Knight, Bobby Mack, Sam Mack, Kenny Martin, Sharon Marler, Audrey Miles, Will Pope, Anne Robinson, Margaret Robinson, Marion Robinson, Eddie & Sybil Robinson, Carole Sinkbeil, Bruno Schrieber, James Shugart, Calvin Stanley, Peggy Steller

**Bethel UMC-** Loen Arrington, Joan Baber, Bob Bazinet, Lucas Bech & the Bech family, Betty Jo & Harry James Beckham, Donovan Cassellas & the Cassellas family, Majorie Cook, Sherry Crosby, Billy and Diane Dove, Cathy Estes, William Hobgood, Wesley Jones, Stephen Keller, Lila Lake, Paul Leitner, Frank Martin, Jackie McDaniel, Debra Obert, Sherrill Perry, Joan and Martin Phipps & the Phipps family, Greg Robertson, Pastor Terry Roof & The Roof Family, Brooks Smith, Anne Stewart, Ford Sweeney, Toby Warpole, unity in our county, state, nation, and world.

**OFFICE HOURS: M, T, & TH (9a-5p)W (9a-12p) | VISITATION HOURS: W (1-5p)**

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