



Worship Celebration

Second Sunday in Lent

Scout Sunday

March 8, 2020 + 11:15 AM

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, we **make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

We Gather as God's Children

We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today. Please indicate your presence in worship by signing the Who's Who attendance pad (located on the pew near the center aisle) or checking in on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA.

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Larghetto from Violin Sonata V

G.F. Handel

+ Call to Worship

We are called to go to places we don't know.

We look to the hills for our strength.

Our strength is in God, who always goes before us and with us.

We live by faith, day by day.

Come, let us worship the God who calls us—

who walks with us throughout life's journey.

+ Hymn

To God Be the Glory

UMH 98

+ Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Gracious God, we gather in need of forgiveness and grace.

You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not.

We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead.

We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require.

***We struggle to accept the new life Christ offers,
preferring old habits to risky change.***

Forgive us, we pray.

Help us to be born anew into the full life of Christ,

trusting that you have included us in the family of faith.

In Christ's name, we pray. (silent prayers of confession)

May God forgive us, free us, and lead us more fully into life.

In the name of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

+ Please stand as you are able.

We Grow in God's Word

Children's Time

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson—Genesis 12.1 - 4a (NRSV)

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Psalm 121 (NRSV)

A Song of Ascents.

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
⁸ The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Hand Bell Choir Anthem

Near the Cross

William H. Doane

Sermon

+ Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

UMH 117

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Moment for Mission

Offertory

Bourrée from Flute Sonata II

G.F. Handel

+ Doxology

UMH 95

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

*Gracious God, just as you blessed Abram when he ventured out in faith,
you have blessed us with so much.*

*Help us to see our gifts and offerings not as fruit of our own hard work
but as blessings we have received from your generous hand.*

*In grateful response to these many blessings, we offer you these gifts,
that they may bless a world in need. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

Freely, Freely

UMH 389

+ Benediction (From Psalm 121)

Let us share in the words of the psalmist:

"The Lord is our keeper.

The Lord is our shade at our right hand.

The sun shall not strike us by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep us from all evil.

God will keep our lives.

The Lord will keep our going out and our coming in
from this time on and forevermore."

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Andante from Organ Concerto I

G.F. Handel

We invite you to enjoy the postlude. When you are ready to leave the worship space, we ask that you do so quietly out of respect for those who are still listening. Thank you for being with us today!

Our service of worship is ended.

Our worship through service now begins.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Fellowship Hour

Please join us before or after worship in the Gathering Place for fellowship and refreshments.

Each week, snacks and treats are provided by a friend of the congregation. Consider offering the gift of hospitality and providing simple refreshments, perhaps in celebration of a birthday or anniversary or other milestone. To sign up or for more information, please contact **Jason Antczak** at 440-759-7805 or jasonantczak78@gmail.com.

Weekly Seeds

You are invited to use these resources for further reflection during the week. Gather together a few friends from your neighborhood, workplace, or any other community of which you already belong, and walk together through these prayers, questions, and preparations for next Sunday's worship services.

Morning Prayer

Loving God,
you have given me the gift of this new day,
and you send me out to live it fully and well.
Help me to be attentive to your direction & leading.
Give me courage to try new things.
Whatever this new day may hold,
I trust you to keep me in all my comings and goings,
in Christ's name. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Gracious God, as the evening comes,
I look for you even in the shadows.
Your love stays with me through the night hours,
and I rest now in your promises.
For the day that has been, I give you thanks.
For the gift of rest, I give you praise.
After a night of rest,
bring me into the light of a new day.
In gratitude, Amen.

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Questions for reflection and conversation:

1. Like Abram, what might God be calling you to "leave behind" in order to respond to God's call more fully? How might you share your blessings so they can be a blessing in the lives of others?
2. Nicodemus approaches Jesus in the night, presumably not wanting to be seen. Have you ever felt uncomfortable expressing your faith, your questions, your doubts? How do you respond when God challenges you to go beyond your comfort zone?

Next Sunday's Scripture Lessons

March 15, 2020 - Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17.1-7, Psalm 95 (UMH 814), Romans 5.1-11, John 4.5-42

Thank you to those leading in worship today:

Ministers

All God's People

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Organist

Dr. Barbara McGregor

Hand Bell Choir Director

Victoria Lero

Greeters

Judy & Carl Mollison
Gail Uhl

Liturgist

Representatives of the Boy Scouts