

LARGE PRINT

Worship Celebration

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024 + 9 AM

We Gather as God's Children

Words of Welcome

Opportunities for Ministry

Prelude

Meditation on "The Lord's My Shepherd"

Paul Fey

+ Opening Prayer

Lenten travelers, the journey is long.

Let us take a moment to rest and breathe.

Only in God do we find our rest.

Sometimes the road is easy,

and we bask in the warmth of the Light who guides us.

Other times the road is hard,

and we hide from the Light,

afraid for our actions to be made known in public.

Some days we delight in the joy of journeying together on this road.

Other days we struggle with the temptation

to judge and condemn one another as we travel this path.

Today, let us come into the Light together

as we learn to love God and one another

through the twists and turns of our Lenten journey.

Come, let us worship God together! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, reprinted by permission of www.umcdiscipleship.org, October 2023.

+ Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557

Prayers of the People (Seeking & Offering Peace)

Music of Meditation & Reflection - *Medley of Hymns*

The Lord's Prayer

We Grow in God's Word

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 - Colossians 3.12-14 (NRSVUE)

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson - 1 Corinthians 12.12-26 (NRSVUE)

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we

think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon - *Connected*

Dr. Stephen J. Knisely

+ Hymn

Bind Us Together

TFWS 2226

Invitation to Give Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Choir Anthem - *O Dearest Lord, Thy Sacred Head*

Father Andrew (Henry Ernest Hardy),

arr. David N. Johnson

+ Doxology

(to the tune of Amazing Grace, UMH 378)

***Praise God our Maker, Christ the Son,
who came to walk this earth.***

***Through joy and pain he knows our life,
with Spirit, gives new birth.***

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

Merciful God, we thank you

for your wonderful works among humankind.

Accept this offering

with the dedication of our lives

and help us be for the world

an emblem of your steadfast love,

in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

Make Us One

TFWS 2224

+ Benediction

Postlude

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Karl Osterland

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Morning Prayer

Loving God,
draw them to your light,
that I may avoid the dangers of sin
and receive the freedom of your grace
in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Lord Christ,
as shadows of night draw near,
sustain me by the light that banishes the fearful claim of death.
Help me believe in you with all my heart
that I may know the freedom of salvation
and at last receive the joy of eternal life. Amen.

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