

LARGE PRINT

Worship Celebration

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 + 9 AM

We Gather as God's Children **Words of Welcome**

Opportunities for Ministry

Prelude - *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Eugene E Englert

+ Call to Worship

Lenten travelers, how long have you traveled this road
with your gaze pointed down at the dust and gravel and asphalt
as you walk or limp or roll down the path?

***Sometimes it is easier to look at the road
than at the people who share the journey with us.***

Lift up your heads! Look, listen, reach out a hand.

Who are your neighbors on this road?

***We lift our heads and look to our Savior who journeys with us
and helps us notice our neighbors all around us.***

This is the Lenten journey—to learn to love God
and love our neighbors just as Jesus showed us.

***Our journey teaches us to lose our lives to God
as we find and follow Christ in our service to others.***

Come, let us worship God who caravans with us
on this road to the cross.

Come, let us worship! Amen.

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

+ Hymn

Where He Leads Me

UMH 338

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 - John 1.1-5 (NRSVUE)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson - Colossians 1.15-23 (NRSVUE)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, **16** for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. **17** He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon - *God Speaks*

Dr. Stephen J. Knisely

+ Hymn

Blessed Assurance

UMH 369

Invitation to Give Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Choir Anthem - *Cleanse Me*

J. Mark Taylor
arr. Mark Hayes

+ 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.***

Public Domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

***O Lord our God,
we want to follow all your commandments-
to love only you, not worshipping the things of this world;
to love our neighbor freely,
not desiring for ourselves something that they possess.
Accept these offerings, we pray,
and teach us to be generous,
giving fully to ourselves
that we may truly be the body of Christ in this world. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

Jesus Is All the World to Me

UMH 469

+ Benediction

Postlude - *Postlude on "What Wondrous Love Is This"*

John S. Dixon

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

Morning Prayer

Loving God, you offer the gift of new life each day.
Open my heart to receive this grace that I may be wholly yours,
then give me the courage to share this gift wherever I go
as I seek to walk in your way
of mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Forgiving God, who makes all things new,
you know where I have flourished this day,
and you know where I have failed.
Help me to know that in all my challenges there is a seed of hope.
May I rest in peace this night and awake refreshed
to greet the newness of your day. Amen.

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