Dear Church Family,

We are delighted to gather for worship over the phone and via live-stream. We want to share with you the Order of Worship that we will use for this Sunday, February 28, 2021. We will start the service at 10 AM.

Please join us by using either the conference call number, the live-stream via Zoom, Facebook, or our website. We want everyone to have the opportunity to worship. Please choose one option to allow others to participate too. Thank you so much. Happy Sunday!

Live-Stream

- [St. Matthew’s UMC via Zoom](#)
  - Meeting ID: 996 0251 9769 Password: 14900
- [St. Matthew’s UMC via Facebook](#)
- [St. Matthew’s UMC via Website](#)

Conference Call

- Conference Call Dial-In: +1-301-715-8592
- Enter Access Code: 996 0251 9769 # Password: 14900 #
- Then, please wait for the host to begin.

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St. Matthew’s UMC

"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed..." Romans 4:18a

The Second Sunday in Lent
The Second Sunday in Lent
February 28, 2021

PRELUDE: Tierce en Taille du Deuxième Ton
— Jean-Adam Guillain (ca 1680–ca 1740)

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent
All: towards the One who calls us each by a new name.
Leader: Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,
All: pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.
Leader: Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,
All: whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.

OPENING HYMN: Jesus Call Us UMH #398
Jesus Calls Us

1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice sound-eth, saying, "Christian, follow me!"

2. As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake. that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"

3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"

4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior,

WORDS: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852 (Mt. 4:18-22)
MUSIC: William H. Jude, 1874

GALILEE
87.87

STM UMC | 3
OPENING PRAYER

God of Abraham our father, God of Sarah our mother,
we remember with gratitude your covenant that undergirds our lives
with certainty and gives us peace.

God of Jesus our savior,
we hear the call to honor your covenant by picking up our cross and following.

Be our guide on our Lenten journey.

Help us to live in faith and hope, trusting in your call and in your promises. Amen.

ACT OF PRAISE  UMH #71

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,


ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus calls us to deny ourselves.
Yet we trust in our own works rather than in God’s grace.

Jesus calls each of us to take up our cross.
Yet rather than allow our selfishness and sin to be put to death,
we cling to what we know.

Jesus calls us to follow him.
Yet we fear where faith will lead
and what it might change in our lives.

In this moment of silence,
we confess the sin that separates us from one another and from God.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & THE PEACE
JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN: Faith, While Trees are Still in Blossom  UMH#508

Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom  508

1. Faith, while trees are still in blossom, plans the picking of the fruit; faith can feel the thrill of
2. Long before the dawn is breaking, faith anticipates the sun. Faith is eager for the
3. Long before the rains were coming, Noah went and built an ark. Abraham, the lonely
4. Faith, uplifted, tamed the waters of the undivided sea, and the people of the
5. Faith believes that God is faithful: God will be what God will be! Faith accepts the call, re-

Please See The Next Page.
HEBREW LESSON

This morning’s reading is from the Hebrew Scriptures from the book of Genesis.

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” 3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4 “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7 I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

15 God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, “Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”

The Word of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD.
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Psalm 22:23-31

You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him!

Stand in awe of God, all you offspring of Israel!

For God did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted:

God did not hide his face from me,

but heard when I cried out to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will pay before those who worship the Lord.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord!

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

and all the families of the nations shall worship before the Lord.

For dominion belongs to the Lord who rules over the nations.

All who sleep in the earth shall bow down to the Lord.

All who go down to the dust shall bow before the Lord,

and I shall live for God.

Posterity shall serve the Lord;

each generation shall tell of the Lord,

and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn.

Surely the Lord has done it.
STM UMC | 8

EPISTLE

The Epistle reading this morning is from Paul’s Letter to the Romans.

Romans 4:13-25

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

16 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. 20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 23 Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Thy Word UMH #601 (refrain only 2x)

Thy Word Is a Lamp

| Thy word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path. |

THE BOOK OF THE CHURCH: HOLY SCRIPTURE
GOSPEL

This morning’s Gospel reading is from the Gospel according to Mark.

Mark 8:31-28

31 Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words 1 in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION:  

Duo du Deuxième Ton

— Anonymous, Live d’Orgue de Limoges, 1720.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE:  

Hoping Against Hope

— Rev. Katy Hinman
Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
   wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
   stoop to my weakness, might as thou art,
   and make me love thee as I ought to love.

2. I ask no dream, no prophetic ecstasies,
   no sudden rendering of the veil of clay,
   no angel visitant, no opening skies;
   but take the dimness of my soul away.

3. Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King?
   All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
   I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
   O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

4. Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh;
   teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.
   To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh,
   teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

5. Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
   one holy passion filling all my frame;
   the kindling of the heaven-descended Dove,
   my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

WORDS: George Croly, 1867 (Gal. 5:25)
MUSIC: Frederick C. Allen, 1879
MORECAMBE
DOXOLOGY     UMH #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above, you heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CLOSING HYMN:   How Can I Keep from Singing      TFWS #2212
My Life Flows On
(How Can I Keep from Singing)

1. My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
2. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music.
3. What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior
4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever

Refrain

D7/G G

Congregation: Unison or parts

WORDS: Robert Lowery
MUSIC: Robert Lowery

Please See The Next Page.
RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION:  Amen, Amen (Dresden)  UMH #897

POSTLUDE:  Dialogue du Premier Ton
— Jean-Adam Guillain (ca 1680–ca 1740)