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, March 14, 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.
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021

PRELUDE: Andante in A Flat Major
— John Stainer (1840-1901)

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O let us give thanks to the Lord,
All: For the love of God will never end.
Leader: Let we who love God be unashamed to declare it,
All: Because God has answered our cries for help.
Leader: The Lord our God has met our every need,
All: We will therefore proclaim the love of the Lord!

OPENING HYMN: Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here UMH #579
579 Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here

1. Lord God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
   love were made; your living likeness still we bear, though
   marred, dishonored, disobeyed; we come, with all our
   heart and mind, your call to hear, your love to find.

2. We come with self-inflicted pains of broken trust and
   chosen wrong, half-free, half-bound by inner chains, by
   social forces swept along, by powers and systems
   confined, yet seeking hope for human kind.

3. Lord God, in Christ you call our name, and then receive us
   as your own; not through some merit, right, or claim, but
   by your gracious love alone; we strain to glimpse your
   mercy seat, and find you kneeling at our feet.

4. Then take the towel, and break the bread, and humble us, and
   show how grandly love intends to work till all creation from guilt and dull despair, and offer all that
   action sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

5. Lord God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your
   joy to share; give us your Spirit's liberty to
   faith can do, while love is making all things new.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1973
MUSIC: Henry Carey, ca. 1723; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906

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OPENING PRAYER  Prayer of John Chrysostom  UMH #412

Almighty God,

you have given us grace at this time

with one accord to make our common supplication to you;

and you have promised through your well-beloved Son

that when two or three are gathered together in his name,

you will be in the midst of them:

Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions

as may be best for us;

granting us in this world knowledge of your truth,

and in the age to come life everlasting. 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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & THE PEACE

JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER
HYMN: Amazing Grace UMH #378

Amazing Grace

1. Amaz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
now am found; was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
grace appear the hour I first be - lieved.

3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
word my hope secures; he will my shield and
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me, his
mor - tal life shall cease, I shall pos - sess, with
portion be, as long as life endures.

5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and
in the veil, a life of joy and peace.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

6. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

Cherokee
Ooh nay thla nah, hie ooway gee.
E gah gwooh yah hay ee.
Naw gwooh joee sah, we you low sah.
E gah gwooh yah ho nah.

Nizhónígo joo'ba' dits' a'
Yisdáhíiwéé.
Laah yóodi'ya, k'ad shéna'hoosdzin.
Doo eesh'í da nteé.

Kiev
Daw këe da ha dawtsahy he tsow'haw
Daw këe da ha dawtsahy hëe.
Baw dawtsahy taw, gaw aym ow thah taw,
Daw këe da ha dawtsahy hëe.

Creek
Po ya fek cha he thelat ah tet
Ah non ah chała' ka's.
Cha fek kee o funnân la kus
Um e ha ta la yus.

Cherokee
Shilomish, holitopa mai
Esh'ménti pulla cha
Hatak ilush'a pia ha
Is pi yukpalashke.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; st. 6 anon.; phonetic transcription Cherokee, Kiev, Amenzing Grace
Creek, Choctaw as sung in Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference; Navajo phonetic
transcription by Albert Tsosie (1 Chr. 17:16-17)

MUSIC: 19th cent. USA melody; hymn by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

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HEBREW LESSON

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

Numbers 21:4-9

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea,¹ to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5 The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” 6 Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” 9 So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

1 O give thanks to the Lord who is good
    whose steadfast love endures forever.
2 Let the redeemed of he Lord say so,
    whom the Lord has redeemed from trouble
3 and gathered in from the lands,
    from the east and from the west,
    from the north and from the south.

17 Some were sick through the sinful ways,
    and because of their iniquities endure affliction;
18 they loathed any kind of food
    and they drew near to the gates of death.
19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
    and God saved them from their distress;}
20 the Lord sent forth the word and healed them,  
and delivered them from destruction.  

21 Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,  
for God’s wonderful work to humankind.  

22 Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices  
and tell of God’s deeds with songs of joy.  

EPISTLE  

The Epistle reading this morning is from Paul’s First Letter to the Ephesians.  
Ephesians 2:1-10  

2 You were dead through the trespasses and sins  
in which you once lived, following the course of this world,  
following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.  

3 All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were  
by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.  

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with  
which he loved us  
even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ[a]—by  
grace you have been saved—  
and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in  
Christ Jesus,  
so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness  
toward us in Christ Jesus.  

5 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is  
the gift of God—  
not the result of works, so that no one may boast.  

6 For we are what he has made us, created  
in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.  

The Word of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD.  

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

Refrain (Unison)  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a  
light unto my path.
GOSPEL

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

John 3:14-21

Jesus said: “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Gospel of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION: Moderato in F Major, Opus 156/4
— Gustav Merkel (1827-1885)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MUSIC AT THE GRADUAL: Andante in a minor, Opus 156/5
— Gustav Merkel (1827-1885)

MESSAGE: Judge Not?
— Rev. Katy Hinman
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess to you, all-knowing God, what we are.
We are not the people we like others to think we are.
We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves,
what lies in the depths of our souls.
But we cannot hide our true selves from you.
You know us as we are, and yet you love us.
Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge.
Teach us to respect ourselves for your sake.
Give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding power.
Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt
and into the freedom and energy of a forgiven people.
Help us to see that the way to your heart
is through the reconciliation of our own hearts with one another.
By the fire of our Holy Spirit, melt our hard hearts
and consume the pride and prejudice which separate us.
Fill us, O Lord, with your perfect love, which casts out our fear,
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING: God So Loved the World
— John Stainer (1840-1901)

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:  Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing  UMH #400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing  400

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to
   sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing,
   call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious
   safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a

2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy
   help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
   bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I

3. O to grace how great a debt or daily I'm con-
   strained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter,

Please See The Next Page.
son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove. Praise the mount! I’m
stran-ger, wan-dering from the fold of God; he, to res-cue
feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here’s my heart, O

fixed up-on it, mount of thy re-deem-ing love.
me from dan-ger, in-ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a-bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758 (1 Sam. 7:12)
MUSIC: Wyeth’s Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION:  Amen, Amen (Dresden)  UMH #897

POSTLUDE:  Finale alla Marcia in D Major
— John Stainer (1840-1901)