

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday March 20th
Third Sunday in Lent



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who are thirsty.

Come, all who are seeking.

Come, all who are waiting.

Come, all who labor.

Come, all who need rest.

Come, all who dream dreams.

Come—

whether you're young or old,

confident or curious,

lonely or hopeful.

This is God's house. All are welcome here.

Let us worship holy God.

*HYMN Everyone Is Worthy

TIME OF PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER

God of fig trees and foxes,

of today and tomorrow,

we would like to ask that you scoop us up.

Pick us up like a great gust of wind.

Startle us awake like a first love.

Light a fire in us like tomorrow depends on today.

Do all of this to get our attention and then turn us toward you.
We are a scattered people, God.
The world is moving faster than we can keep up.
So we pray—scoop us up.
Catch our eye.
Open our ears.
Capture our attention.
We are here. We long to be close to you.

Amen. PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and
forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

*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.

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives.

HYMN UMH 357 Just as I Am, Without One Plea, vs. 1 and 6 only

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FULL TO THE BRIM VIDEO

LESSON 1 Isaiah 55:1-9 CEB

All of you who are thirsty, come to the water!
Whoever has no money, come, buy food and eat!
Without money, at no cost, buy wine and milk!

² Why spend money for what isn't food,
and your earnings for what doesn't satisfy?
Listen carefully to me and eat what is good;
enjoy the richest of feasts.

³ Listen and come to me;
listen, and you will live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful loyalty to David.

⁴ Look, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a prince and commander of peoples.

⁵ Look, you will call a nation you don't know,
a nation you don't know will run to you
because of the Lord your God,
the holy one of Israel, who has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord when he can still be found;
call him while he is yet near.

⁷ Let the wicked abandon their ways
and the sinful their schemes.

Let them return to the Lord so that he may have mercy on them,
to our God, because he is generous with forgiveness.

⁸ My plans aren't your plans,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹ Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my plans than your plans.

May God add a blessing to this reading.

*LESSON 2

Luke 13:1-9 CEB

Some who were present on that occasion told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices. 2 He replied, “Do you think the suffering of these Galileans proves that they were more sinful than all the other Galileans? 3 No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did. 4 What about those eighteen people who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think that they were more guilty of wrongdoing than everyone else who lives in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did.”

6 Jesus told this parable: “A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 He said to his gardener, ‘Look, I’ve come looking for fruit on this fig tree for the past three years, and I’ve never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting the soil’s nutrients?’ 8 The gardener responded, ‘Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it and give it fertilizer. 9 Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.’”

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

P: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“You are Worthy”

HYMN

UMH 121 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

CALL TO CONFESSION

There is something so healing, so life-giving, about telling our stories.

In the prayer of confession, that is what we get to do.

The mask comes off. Any pretense of perfection is removed.

We let the pressure to perform slip away and we sit here, face to face with God,

sharing honestly who we long to be.

Friends, there is healing here.

There is life to be gained here.

So join me in this moment of honesty. Join me in the prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

we treat our self-worth like something that can be bought at a store;

but you know this even better than we do.

Instead of trusting that we are made good,

instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are,

we stockpile our value in earthly things—

in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power.

Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick.

Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts that we won't be forgotten if we slow down.

We won't be forgotten if we rest. Gratefully we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, take a deep breath.

Release the tension in your jaw.

There is good news here.

For even when we stumble,

even when we take the easy way out,
even when we forget our own self-worth,
even when we lose our way—we belong to God.
Say it with me—

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are
under God's wing. We are worthy of grace.
We belong to God. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe
that the God of the cosmos is at work here.
We believe that God is fertilizing the soil.
We believe that God is planting roots.
We believe that God is growing fruit that is yet to be tasted.
But until that promised day
when the fig tree stands tall and swords are beaten into
plowshares,
we believe:
when our work does not bear fruit,
God still loves us.
When our soil grows dry and cracked,
God still longs for us.
When all seems hopeless here on earth,
God holds hope for us.
The God of the cosmos is at work here.
We believe. Help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Even in the Desert, vs. 3 only

POSTLUDE