

WORSHIP HANDOUT
Sunday March 27th
Fourth Sunday in Lent



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God's reach is endless.

God's mercy is unstoppable.

God's grace is lavish.

God's love is constant.

God's wisdom is vast.

God's hope is stubborn.

God's presence is here—

with us, among us, moving through us.

Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

We are in God's house.

Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

*HYMN

Jesus' Wondrous Words of Grace

TIME OF PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER

God of open doors,

We often long to come home to you,

to love,

and to ourselves,

but we aren't always sure how to get there.

We know that we need you,

but the road back to you is heavy with distractions.
So if we can dare to be so forward, we pray—
reach into the cacophony of our hearts and minds and make
yourself known.

Quiet everything but your Word for us today.

Leave us awestruck.

Drown out the distractions.

Come as thunder or come as a still, small voice;
we don't care which, we just pray that you will come.

Turn on the light.

Speak through these words.

Find the parts of us that are lost.

With hope we pray, 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 348 Softly and Tenderly

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FULL TO THE BRIM VIDEO

LESSON 1

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 CEB

¹⁶ So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. ¹⁷ So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

¹⁸ All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation.

²⁰ So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!" ²¹ God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God.

May God add a blessing to this reading.

*LESSON 2

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 CEB

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. ² The Pharisees and legal experts were

grumbling, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ Jesus told them this parable:

Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. ¹² The younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the inheritance.’ Then the father divided his estate between them. ¹³ Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

¹⁴ “When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough food, but I’m starving to death! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. “While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. ²¹ Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! ²³ Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting ²⁴ because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷ The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and

your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’²⁸ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him.²⁹ He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.³⁰ But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’³¹ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.³² But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

“THAT KID?!”

HYMN

UMH 367 Amazing Grace, verses 1-4 only

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The prodigal son isn’t given a name, but we know his name.

It sounds like ours.

And we know his story.

It sounds like ours.

For who among us hasn’t burned a bridge?

Who among us hasn’t forgotten that we belong to one another?

Who among us has not ached for home?

The prodigal son isn’t given a name, but we know his name.

Forgive us God. We want to come home.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

...For no matter how many times we run, no matter how far we go or how lost we get,

God is standing at the end of the driveway waiting for us. The doors are open.

The feast is for you. This grace is extravagant.

Thanks be to God, amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us.

We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on and throws a feast when we are found.

We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us when we get lost.

We believe in a God of prodigal grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other.

We remember that humans are not meant to go through life alone;

so we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live like we are family, and to lead

with grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

We believe that this is our call. Let it be so. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Even in the Desert, **vs. 3 only**

POSTLUDE