

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday March 3rd

Lent: Sanctified Art, Wandering Heart

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*SONG OF WELCOME Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing UMH 400

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Inspired by Psalm 19*

If you ask the sky who God is,
the sky will tell you of God's reach.

If you ask the day who God is,
the sun will tell you of God's warmth.

If you ask the night who God is,
the moon will tell you of God's comfort.

"The heavens are telling the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1).

Are you listening?

We are listening!

We will sing of God's glory.

Let us worship Holy God.

CALL TO CONFESSION (Liturgist)

In our scripture for today, Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter said, "You are the Messiah."

Have you ever wondered if his voice faltered when he answered?

Did he respond loudly and with confidence,
or with a tentative whisper?

We'll never know. The text doesn't provide those details. But we can trust that, no matter how we speak to God, when we speak, God is listening.

So friends, join me in the prayer of confession. Whether you whisper these words or speak them with conviction, may you trust that our gracious and merciful God is listening with love. Let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (liturgist/responsive)

Holy God,
Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness.
Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith.
Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.
Forgive us for losing sight of you.

Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—
trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.
Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.
Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.

We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith.
But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace.
Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (Liturgist)

Friends,
Whether you speak to God
in a whisper or with clear conviction,
with questions or with answers,
with hope in your heart or with doubt in your throat—
God will always listen with love and mercy.
So rest in this good news:
regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God.
You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven.

Speak that good news with confidence. Amen.

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER He's Got the Whole World in
His Hands

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Pastor Andrew

*HYMN: UMH 77 How Great Thou Art

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (pastor)

Holy Word,
For generations people have bowed their heads,
have prayed the Psalms,
have asked for your presence in their lives.
For generations people have whispered,
“May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
be acceptable and pleasing to you, O God.”
For generations we have gathered here,
we have quieted our minds,
we have prayed to feel your presence in our midst.
So once again, just as the generations before,
we turn our hearts to your Word.
Still our busy minds so that we might truly comprehend what you have
to say to us today.
With joy and hope we pray, amen.

LESSON I **Psalm 19 CEB**

**Heaven is declaring God's glory;
the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.**
² **One day gushes the news to the next,
and one night informs another what needs to be known.**
³ **Of course, there's no speech, no words—**

their voices can't be heard—
⁴ but their sound extends throughout the world;
their words reach the ends of the earth.
God has made a tent in heaven for the sun.
⁵ The sun is like a groom
coming out of his honeymoon suite;
like a warrior, it thrills at running its course.
⁶ It rises in one end of the sky;
its circuit is complete at the other.
Nothing escapes its heat.
⁷ The Lord's Instruction is perfect,
reviving one's very being.
The Lord's laws are faithful,
making naive people wise.
⁸ The Lord's regulations are right,
gladdening the heart.
The Lord's commands are pure,
giving light to the eyes.
⁹ Honoring the Lord is correct,
lasting forever.
The Lord's judgments are true.
All of these are righteous!
¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold—
than tons of pure gold!
They are sweeter than honey—
even dripping off the honeycomb!
¹¹ No doubt about it:
your servant is enlightened by them;
there is great reward in keeping them.
¹² But can anyone know
what they've accidentally done wrong?
Clear me of any unknown sin
¹³ and save your servant from willful sins.
Don't let them rule me.

**Then I'll be completely blameless;
I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing.**

**¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth
and the meditations of my heart
be pleasing to you,
Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

May God add a Blessing to this reading.

***LESSON 2: MATTHEW 16:13-20 CEB**

¹³ Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Human One is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

¹⁵ He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Then Jesus replied, "Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. ¹⁸ I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. ¹⁹ I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven." ²⁰ Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

This is the Word of God for all people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Praise the Mount

*HYMN Here at the Peak

TIME OF PRAYER

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. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus asked the disciples, "But what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Church, what do you say?

**Jesus is a hand reaching out in the storm,
the voice of truth spoken over us,**

**and love without walls.
Jesus is justice for the weary,
healing for the hurt,
and welcome for the stranger.
Jesus is teacher, Messiah, and friend—
with me on the mountain
and beside me in the valley.
Jesus is a star in the night,
and the love that knows my name.
Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?”
Like Peter, we say,
“Jesus, you are the Messiah, son of the Living God.”**

***BENEDICTION and RESPONSE**

TFWS 2138 Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

POSTLUDE