

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday March 17th

Lent: Sanctified Art, Wandering Heart

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE O Sacred Head Now Wounded, by Arnold B. Sherman

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Why are you here?

**I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.**

I see it! You're in the right place!

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Why are you here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.

We see that in you! You're in the right place.

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Let us worship God.

Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

CALL TO CONFESSION (Liturgist)

Friends, when you study Peter's story in scripture it's almost impossible to ignore how much he

loved to ask questions. He asks Jesus:

"What does the parable mean?"

"Where are you going?"

"How many times should we forgive?"

Like a tenacious toddler, Peter was full of questions, because Peter was eager to learn. I wish I was more like that. I still have so much to learn. So friends, let's be like Peter. Let's return to Christ with the humility of a student as we pray together the prayer of confession. Let this be a moment of learning. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God,

We long to be lifelong learners.

We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.

Instead, we often live as if we know best.

We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher."

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.

Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.

Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.

Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, "How many times should we forgive?"—make us

brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters.

With hope and humility we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (Liturgist)

Family of faith,

When Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should I forgive?" Jesus responded with abundance.

That abundance exists for you as well.

No matter what you have done or left undone,

no matter what lessons you have learned or are still learning,

God's abundant grace exists for you. God's love will never run out.

So hear and rest in this good news:

You are forgiven.
You are loved.
You are invited to serve.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Pastor Andrew

ANTHEM: My Heart, by Becky and Cindy Cruse

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (pastor)

Teaching God,
We want to learn your ways.
We want to learn the ways of forgiveness.
We want to learn the ways of grace.
We want to learn your ways of love.
That is part of why we return to your text week after week,
because we are hungry to be more like you.
So as we prepare to listen to your good Word,
calm the noise in our minds.
Center our spirits to focus on you
so that we might learn and hear what we have missed in this story
before.
God, we want to learn your ways.
Meet us here.
Speak your truth.
Help us listen.
Amen.

LESSON I **PSALM 119 : 9-16 CEB**

How can young people keep their paths pure?

By guarding them according to what you've said.^[a]

¹⁰ I have sought you with all my heart.

Don't let me stray from any of your commandments!

**¹¹ I keep your word close, in my heart,
so that I won't sin against you.**

¹² You, Lord, are to be blessed!

Teach me your statutes.

**¹³ I will declare out loud
all the rules you have spoken.**

**¹⁴ I rejoice in the content of your laws
as if I were rejoicing over great wealth.**

**¹⁵ I will think about your precepts
and examine all your paths.**

**¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget what you have said.**

May God add a Blessing to this reading.

***LESSON 2: MATTHEW 18:15-22 CEB**

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or sister. ¹⁶ But if they won't listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ But if they still won't pay attention, report it to the church. If they won't pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. ¹⁸ I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will

do it for you. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

²¹ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

²² Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times.

This is the Word of God for all people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Teach Me

*HYMN Love Your Neighbor and Forgive, words by Anna Strickland

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.

PRAYER HYMN: UMH 560 Help Us Accept Each Other

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

We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

“How many times should I forgive?”

“Jesus, where are you going?”

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

“Where does it hurt?”

“What do you need?”

“How can I help?”

We believe that God is a teacher.

“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”

“Here I am.”

“Send me.”

We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,

with all our heart,

with all our mind,

with all our strength.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

*BENEDICTION and RESPONSE

TFWS 2138 Sunday’s Palms Are Wednesday’s Ashes

POSTLUDE