

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday March 16th

2nd Sunday of Lent

Sanctified Art: Everything In-Between

Theme: Rest & Growth

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*SONG OF WELCOME God of Grace and God of Glory UMH 577

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Worship is a place to rest.

P: We breathe deeply here.

L: We still our aching bones.

P: We sit in the quiet.

L: We surround ourselves with music.

P: Worship is a place to rest.

L: Worship is a place to grow.

P: We listen for God's word.

L: We invite it to challenge us.

P: We lean in with curiosity.

L: We ask questions.

P: Worship is a place to grow.

L: So come into this space.

Come rest and grow here.

**P: For where two or more are gathered,
God is always there.**

L: Let us worship our gracious God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

L: God meets us in the night—

P: before the sun rises, before the wound heals, before there are answers, before there is closure.

L: God meets us in the light—

P: where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, where people gather around tables.

L: God meets us in between—

P: at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness, at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.

L: And if God meets us in all those places, then surely God meets us everywhere—

P: at the water's edge, at the start of something new, after the baptism, and before the call.

L: We are not alone. God is all around.

P: Let us worship the God of everything.

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Jesus Loves Me
CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM

TIME OF PRAYER

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER

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 Have Thine Own Way, Lord UMH 382

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L: Creator God,
Your Word is like soil,
something we can root ourselves in.
Your Word is like the sun,
big enough to touch everything with its warmth.
And your Word is like a gardener,
a love that prunes and encourages,
waters and delights,
seeds and tends.
So as we turn to your text today,
warm our bones,
tend to our broken pieces,
and show us how to grow.
With hope we pray,
Amen.

*LESSON Luke 13:6-9 CEB

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.’”

This is the Word of God for all people.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rest and Growth

*HYMN

Beneath the Soil

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, we carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about God's grace once. We need that reminder again, and again, and again. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives, and join me in receiving God's grace again.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Holy God,

There are days when we fail to rest.

P: We stretch ourselves too thin. We say "yes" to every invitation.

We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.

L: There are also days when we fail to act.

P: We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.

We find excuses and justify our inaction.

L: God, forgive our imbalance.

P: Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.

Show us how to do the same. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

L: Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score.

Our God does not hold

grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and

endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

P: God's grace is deeper than the ocean. God's love is wider than the sky.

We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven.

May this realization change and inspire us.

Thanks be to God! 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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who loves and tends to us like a gardener.

We believe that like the trees,

some seasons are for growth,

and some seasons are for rest.

Some days require pruning,

and some require planting.

Fortunately, we believe that our green-thumbed God

sees us and cultivates the sweetest fruit.

So may we plant roots,

reach for the sky,

grow where we can,

and rest when we need,

for we believe there is holiness in the pruning and

**in the planting. And we do not grow alone.
Thanks be to God,
Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

May You Run and Not Be Weary TFWS 2281

POSTLUDE