

## WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Sanctified Art: Everything In-Between

Theme: Faith and Works

### OPENING OF WORSHIP

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

\*SONG OF WELCOME “Together We Serve”      TFWS #2175

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come as you are.

**P: If you have deep faith  
or your faith has run dry,**

L: if you know every scripture  
or none at all,

**P: if you have calloused hands  
and live your faith through good works,**

L: or if you kneel at God’s feet,  
with a million hungry questions,

**P: come as you are.**

L: This is God’s house.

**P: None are turned away.**

L: All are welcome here.

### 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      "Come Away With Me"      Keithahn/Horman

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      "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"      UMH #358

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION  
Loving God,

When our anxiety hovers close,  
when fear clings to our bones,  
when our stress rises like the tide,  
see us.  
Speak to us.  
Call us by name.  
See us in the kitchen, in the classroom, in the hospital waiting room.  
Speak to us in the quiet, in the crowd, in the inky black of night.  
Call us beloved. Call us by name. Call us your child.  
Whatever you do, speak to us,  
for we cannot live on bread alone.  
Amen.

\*LESSON            Luke 10:38-42 CEB

**38 While Jesus and his disciples were traveling, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him as a guest. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his message. 40 By contrast, Martha was preoccupied with getting everything ready for their meal. So Martha came to him and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to prepare the table all by myself? Tell her to help me."**

**41 The Lord answered, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things. 42 One thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part. It won't be taken away from her."**

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

MESSAGE            Faith and Works

\*HYMN            Ministry and Presence

CALL TO CONFESSION

The story of Mary and Martha is often painted as a story where one does right and one does wrong.

We know that life is often more complicated than that.

We know that faith is embodied through being present and taking action—and everything in between.

Knowing this, like Mary and Martha, let us draw near to God. Let us be honest about our

lives, our hopes, and our mistakes. For even in our messy middle, God meets us with grace.

Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**God of Grace,**

**We long to do the “right” thing.**

**We long to make the “right” choice.**

**We long to stand on the “right” side of the dividing line.**

**In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us.**

**In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.**

**Show us how to hold our heart’s desire for perfection loosely.**

**Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.**

**For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you.**

**Show us the way.**

**Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

L: Faithful friends, God knows our hearts.

When we mean well and lose our way, God knows.

When we try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows.

When we long to be close to God, and doubt our worth, God knows.

We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven. We have been sent to serve.

This is the good news of the gospel!

Nothing can separate us from God's love.

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 (unison)

**We believe in a Christ who**

**teaches, sees, affirms, and celebrates all of who we are.**

**We believe in a Christ who**

**invites us to use our gifts for good**

**and celebrates every step we take in that direction.**

**We believe in a Christ who**

**understands our anxieties**

**and is gentle with our concerns.**

**And we believe in a Christ who**

**looks at us with undiluted love.**

**The world will try to rank, rate, and declare winners,**

**but we know love has no limit.**

**So with God's help,**

**may we nurture our faith  
and do good work. Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” (verse 4)    UMH #581**

**POSTLUDE**