**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

 First Sunday in Lent February 26, 2023 9 am

 Liturgist: Katrina McGillivray

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.
**P: We are learning to follow Jesus.**

L: For those who feel Christ near,
**P: May we not turn away from the discomfort of the journey ahead.**

L: For those who feel as far from Christ as the desert is from the ocean,
**P: May we find Christ in the wilderness with us.**

L: For all of us who stumble and fall in our silence, indifference, and lack of generosity,
**P: May we reach for the hand of Christ, who raises us up to continue on the journey.**

L: Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!
**P: We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! Amen.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**O God, Who are the unsearchable abyss of peace, the ineffable sea of love, the fountain of blessings, and the bestower of affection, Who sends peace to those that receive it; open to us this day the sea of Your love, and water us with the plenteous streams from the riches of Your grace. Make us children of quietness, and heirs of peace. Kindle in us the fire of Your love; sow in us Your fear; strengthen our weakness by Your power; bind us closely to You and to each other in one firm bond of unity; for the sake of Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

 **-** Syrian Clementine Liturgy

**\***OPENING HYMN ***How Majestic Is Your Name*** #2023

CHILDREN’S TIME Roxie Hostrawser

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Matthew 4)

**God of wilderness wanderings, many things tempt us; many forces cause our feet to stray.**

**Save us from the time of trial, for we easily succumb to temptation; we often heed voices**

**that cause us to stray. Return us to the garden of your abiding love, for we yearn to walk with you with faithful hearts and upright spirits. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Psalm 32)

We worship the one who forgives our transgressions and covers our sin. Rejoice and be glad,

for God’s mercy is greater than our failings; God’s grace is greater than our sin.

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Shon

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(In Unison)*

**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, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (2 Peter 1, Matthew 17)

As God has blessed us with the glory of love and light, so God invites us to share these gifts to light God’s world.

SPECIAL MUSIC ***Reckless Love***  Matt & Amanda

**\***DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*** #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Pastor Shon

SCRIPTURE Acts 9:26-31

**26**When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. **27**But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him,

and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. **28**So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. **29**He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. **30**When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

**31**Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

HYMN OF PRAISE ***Pass It On***#572

MESSAGE **Who Invested In You?** Rev. Scott Carlson

\*CLOSING HYMN***Shine, Jesus, Shine*** #2173

**\***BENEDICTION Rev. Scott Carlson

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

 **PRAYER FAMILIES:** Please pray for people in Turkey and Syria whose lives have been

devastated by two earthquakes this week. The UMCOR is collecting contributions for relief. The link to donate may be reached via their Facebook page. Continue to pray for peace in Ukraine. Also pray for the victims of wars in other parts of the world including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. War is devastating no matter where it takes place.

 Also pray for all immigrants throughout the world as they seek a place of safety. Pray for

 those who need healing, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

**THANK YOU**: all for helping and participating in Visioning Retreat. Thank Rev. Scott Carlson

for leading the retreat and for giving the message for us today.

**THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**: Selling out their napkins and greeting cards. Cards are

 $.25 each and napkin packages are $.50 each. This will be the last Sunday for the sale. These

 great buys are on a table in the Gathering Area. Questions, see Carol Hornby.

**NORTH CENTRAL UWF SPRING RETREAT:** will be held on Sat. May 6 at Pine Lake

 Camp. Registration deadline is April 21. Cost is $20 (including lunch), after April 21st, $25.

 Julie Miehe will present “Prayer-Conversation with God.”

**SMALL GROUP BIBILE STUDY: *Jesus In the Wild*** Bible Study in Lent, 6 Sundays 10:30

 am and 6 Wednesdays 5:30 pm

**SCRIP CARDS:** When you are thinking of ideas for gift giving or personal use, consider Scrip

cards**.** Stop at the gathering area on Sundays or call Marcia at 715-284-3346

**PASTOR:** Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting, Sun, 26-Wed. Mar. 1, Pine Lake

**USHER/GREETERS**: Howard & Kristie Gomer

**THIS WEEK AT THE CHURCH:**

 Wed: Wednesday Connections 4:45-6 pm Pre-Con 5-6 pm

 Youth 6-7 pm Confirmation Class 7-8 pm

 Sat: UMM 8 am

**Bible Trivia Question of the week**

In the book of Revelation, what does John see when the first seal is opened?

 A. a white horse B. a red horse

 C. a black horse D. a pale horse *→ See Revelation 6:2*

 **Black River Falls**

 **United Methodist Church**

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**UMC Mission Statement:**

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

 PASTOR Rev. Inwha Shon

 PIANIST Matthew Schluntz

 MUSIC DIRECTOR Amanda Lang

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