**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

 Third Sunday after Easter April 23, 2023 9 am

 Liturgist: Chuck Devendorf

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 24)

L: Come walk with us.

**P: We will join the journey.**

L: Let us talk together.

**P: We will listen and speak.**

L: Christ goes with us.

**P: Jesus guides our steps.**

\*OPENING PRAYER (1 Peter 1, Luke 24)

**Holy One, we are often confused by the events in our world. Come and walk with us. Open our hearts to hear your truth. Plant the seed of new life within us. In trust of your loving presence, we pray. Amen.**

**\***OPENING HYMN *“****Open My Eyes”***UMH #454

CHILDREN’S TIME Roxie Hostrawser

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Acts 2, Luke 24)

**God of love and compassion, we often fail to understand the truth of your love. We are frequently confused and filled with doubt. Life can feel meaningless. We wander down the pathways of life, longing to see our way more clearly. Open our eyes this day, that we may see your way of love and grace. Meet our confusion with the truth of your presence. Feed us with the true bread of life, and help us change our hearts and lives, that we may follow you with joy. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Acts 2)

God’s promises are for us. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God invites us into newness of life, forgiving and blessing us.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 (Psalm 116)

 What can we give back to God for all the good things God has done for us? We can never repay

 this gift, but we can bring our gifts for God’s work in the world.

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

\*SPECIAL ***“I See the Light”*** Amanda Lang & Matt Schluntz

\* OFFERING PRAYER (Psalm 116)

**God of love, source of all goodness, you hear our cries and you answer. With grateful hearts, we bring our gifts to you. We bring our offerings, as a gift of thanksgiving for your presence in our lives. We are your servants, and we offer ourselves with joy. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Rev. 3:14-22**14**

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen (Jesus), the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. **15**I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! **16**So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. **17**You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. **18**I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.**19**Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. **20**Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.**21**To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. **22**Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. “It’s hard to preach the Good Word to the wealthy and comfortable. The Bible has a lot of reassurance for the Meek, the Mourners, the Poor in Spirit etc…that they will find their satisfaction. For those who have already had their reward, however,

\*HYMN OF PRAISE ***“The Summons”*** UMH #2130

MESSAGE Rod McGillivray

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT ***“Grace Alone”*** UMH #2162UMH

**\***BENEDICTION

 L: Believe where you have not seen.

 **P: Our hearts will lead the way**

 L: Trust where you have reason to doubt.

 **P: Our souls will lead us home.**

 L: Hope where you have cause to despair.

 **P: Our lives will know joy and peace.**

 L: Go with God’s blessing.

POSTLUDE Matthew Schluntz

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for people in need in our church, community, nation, and the world.

**WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS:** is designed for Christian Fellowship**.** A meal this week, April 26, will

 be served by Katrina McGillivray.

**PRAYER WALK:** will take place on every Sunday at 1pm in parking lot.

 National Day of Prayer, Sunday, May 7.

**THE YOUTH LED WORSHIP:** on May 7th, at 9 am.

**A SMALL GROUP STUDY:** A book**, “**Living as United Methodist Christians” by Andy & Sally

 Langford. 6 Sundays from May 7th at 10:30 am. Please sign up for this to order books.

**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

**FELLOWSHIP:** will be served by Stephanie Bantell.

**USHER/GREETERS**: Alan & Paula Voskuil

**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

**Bible Verse of the Week:** Romans 5:8

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:*

*While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

**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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