

CALL TO PRAYER ----- "O Lord, Have Mercy" ----- Children of First Church

PASTORAL PRAYER

(silent confession)

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION

THE 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, forever. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON ----- Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.'

He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

SONG ----- "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People" ----- arr. Mark Albrecht

Brett Miller, Clarinet; Dr. Jessica Scott, piano



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Harry Jenkins, Associate Pastor

"A Holy, Healthy, and Loving Community Striving to Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"



February 28, 2021
Second Sunday in Lent

WORDS OF WELCOME -----Rev. Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE -----Dr. Jessica Scott

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us turn our minds from human things.
People: **Our faith in Jesus saves us.**
Leader: Let us set our minds on divine things.
People: **Our faith in Jesus saves us.**
Leader: We will deny ourselves and take up our cross.
People: **Our faith in Jesus saves us.**
Leader: We will lose all; that we may gain all.
People: **Our faith in Jesus saves us.**

OPENING PRAYER *(Unison)*

God, you have given us everything. What can we give in return for our lives? Be our guide on our Lenten journey. Help us to deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Jesus. We welcome the chastening direction in our lives as we worship you today. AMEN

HYMN -----"The God of Abraham Praise"

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days, and God of Love;
Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and heaven confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

The great I AM has sworn; I on this oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heaven ascend.
I shall behold God's face; I shall God's power adore,
and sing the wonders of God's grace forevermore.

The heavenly land I see, with peace and plenty blest;
a land of sacred liberty, and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

GOSPEL LESSON ----- Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

SERMON ----- "Our Lenten Journey: The Sacrificial Life" ----- Rev. Atkinson
(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)

HYMN ----- "Take Up Thy Cross"

Take up your cross," the Savior said, "if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me."

Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and calmly ev'ry danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life and leads to vict'ry o'er the grave.

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE ----- Dr. Jessica Scott

Easter Giving Tree!

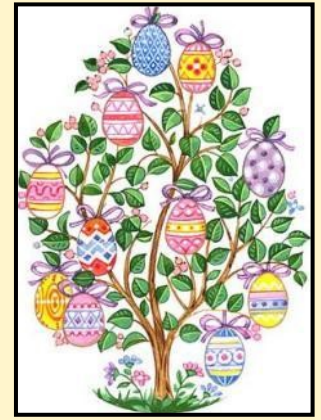
Again this year, for those in need,
we will provide "Easter Baskets" full of food.

Throughout Lent, our church will be open
on Tues/Wed/Thur, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Doors near parlor entrance).

An "Easter Tree" with tags of items needed for the baskets
is on display immediately inside that entrance.

Instructions are on the back of the tags.

Food needs to be at our church by **March 25th**.



Let's make this a special Easter for our sisters and brothers in need!

Distributions will be made on **March 30th**.

Questions? Contact Cheryl Moorhead at 304-677-9859 or Anita Burns at 304-203-1279.



UNDIE SUNDAY

Each year, our church joins other United Methodists in
collecting **NEW underwear**
for distribution at our outreach mission sites.
This year, FUMC will be collecting throughout Lent.

Throughout Lent, our church will be open on Tues/Wed/Thur, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Doors near parlor entrance.)

Undies for all ages / sizes / genders are needed.