

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Gathering Music

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements,

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Kindred of God, a new vision of leadership is called forth and God calls upon the least likely, the unheard of, and the humble of heart to assemble to receive anointing.

All: In peace, we anoint the forgotten, the youngest, smallest, and unlikeliest of siblings whom God has raised up to serve.

Liturgist: Though the call may involve risk and danger, we are called to listen, obey, and live a love unwavering.

All: In peace, we anoint the disinherited and dismissed.

Liturgist: God's call does not depend on our outward appearance or our earthly achievements.

All: In peace, we anoint neighbor and kin alike, knowing God looks upon the heart. Let us open our hearts to God this day. Amen.

HYMN-NCH #195 "Old Rugged Cross"

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

ALL: God of surprises, we know that we do not often perceive the world as you do. We look to the flashy fame, the grand gestures, optimal achievements, and unreachable standards. Yet, in spite of our misguided reach towards perfection, you give us glimpses of your grandeur and grace. Surprise us yet again this day, O God, that in our complacency which allows us to drift towards the same old ways of faith that we may be transformed anew. Provide us with a new cup of oil that we may be anointed by your love so that we may set out into your world to bless and anoint others. In the name of the One whose love and peace make all things new we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: John 3:16-17 (NT Pg 88 Pew Bible)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Colossians 3:15-17 (NT Pg 190 Pew Bible)

"...Put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Choir Hymn: "God Loved the World" NCH #208

PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER (TRADITIONAL)

SCRIPTURE- Psalm 130 (OT, Pg 542 Pew Bible)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!
If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.
I wait for the LORD; my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

The Word of God for the People of God
All: Thanks Be To God

Choir- "Arise My Soul Arise" by Dan Forrest

MESSAGE in SONG -"My Song is Love Unknown" Performed by Homebrewed Harmony

OFFERING WITH OFFERTORY DOXOLOGY

MISSION MOMENT- CART; Steve Hanson

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, you remind us that you "anoint our heads with oil" and that our "cup overflows" with your abundance. We do not take for granted all that you provide. Take these gifts and use them for the healing and tender care of your hurting world. May your cup of love overflow and abide with the hurting and heartbroken, forgotten and despised, so that we may all be made whole. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN-NCH #286 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

SCRIPTURE TEXT: Ephesians 5:18b-20 (NT Pg 183 Pew Bible)

“...Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything to the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

BENEDICTION: “Go Now in Peace” Performed by Choir

SENDING HYMN- NCH #81 V.1 & Refrain “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”



OPEN AND AFFIRMING
COALITION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



We are an open and affirming Church.

Come Peaceably: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Lent were written by Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister for the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ and resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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