

Second Sunday in Lent

“The journey of discipleship is never easy; but, you can be assured that you will not be on this journey alone. Place your trust in Jesus.”

3. 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.



4. The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
and "Holy, holy, holy!" cry "Almighty King!
Who was, and is, the same, and evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM, we worship thee!"

INVOCATION (unison)

Lord of presence and power, be with us on this second step of our Lenten journey to the Cross. Help us to make a commitment of our lives, our spirits and our hearts to ministry in your name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 4:13-25 (CEB)

The promise to Abraham and to his descendants, that he would inherit the world, didn't come through the Law but through the righteousness that comes from faith. If they inherit because of the Law, then faith has no effect and the promise has been canceled. The Law brings about wrath. But when there isn't any law, there isn't any violation of the law. That's why the inheritance comes through faith, so that it will be on the basis of God's grace. In that way, the promise is secure for all of Abraham's descendants, not just for those who are related by Law but also for those who are related by the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all of us. As it is written: *I have appointed you to be the father of many nations.* So Abraham is our father in the eyes of God in whom he had faith, the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that don't exist into existence. When it was beyond hope, he had faith in the hope that he would become the father of many nations, in keeping with the promise God spoke to him: *That's how many descendants you will have.* Without losing faith, Abraham, who was nearly 100 years old, took into account his own body, which was as good as dead, and Sarah's womb, which was dead. He didn't hesitate with a lack of faith in God's promise, but he grew strong in faith and gave glory to God. He was fully convinced that God was able to do what he promised. Therefore, it was credited to him as righteousness. But the scripture that says *it was credited to him* wasn't written only for Abraham's sake. It was written also for our sake, because it is going to be credited to us too. It will be credited to those of us who have faith in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was handed over because of our mistakes, and he was raised to meet the requirements of righteousness for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Guiding Lord, even though we hesitated on our Lenten journey, we vowed to come with you through all the trials and fears toward the Cross. Today we face the challenge which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you in service? We would like to think that we can do that, but we are aware of how many times we have turned away from service and instead focused on our own desires. Remind us again of the commitment you would have us give if we are to become disciples. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, up these steps toward the Cross. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8:31-38 (CEB)

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: “The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead.” He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: “Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

“El Shaddai”

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

“The Summons”

(FWS #2130)

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
5. Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

INVITATION TO SHARE

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

(UMH # 94)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Holy God, we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar, understanding that on the journey in Lent, we can't avoid or detour around the wilderness. It is essential that we hear Jesus call us to repentance! Bless our gifts for your unfinished kingdom work. Remind us, as we worship here, that this redemption of our lives did not come without a price; without our own repentance, we can miss the enormity of the gift Jesus gave. Knowing we cannot earn this redemption and forgiveness, this wiping clean of our ledger, we can only hope to reflect such grace and compassion in our encounters with others. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Alayna Bickel

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

You stop us in our tracks, O Lord, with your reminder that discipleship is not a "sometime" thing. We are called to place our whole lives in your care; to follow you; to serve you by caring for others, not just once in a while, but always. We

admit that we're not always ready to do this. The demand is great; the need is great; our energies are limited. Help us to place our trust and our lives in your care. You will give us the strength and courage that we will need for this step on the journey. Be with us. Help us to remember that your love is poured out for all your people; you are never far away. It is in Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN “*Standing on the Promises*” (UMH # 374)**

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King, through eternal ages let his praises ring; glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of Christ my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing, standing on the promises of Christ my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to him eternally by love's strong cord, overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing, standing on the promises of Christ my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call, resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing, standing on the promises of Christ my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

All are invited to sit and reflect during the Postlude

**Please rise as you are able*

Special thankyous to all those that assisted with worship today.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 35

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

Be certain to check the church website, <https://maconilumc.net/> for updated information about the church, events and news. Please use webmaster.maconumc@gmail.com to submit updates or additions to the church website.

LENTEN STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Sunday School: (Sunday mornings at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall) the class will be exploring “Jesus and the Outsiders and Outcasts” by Adam Hamilton. Starts February 18, 2024.

PASTRY WITH THE PASTOR

Held on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 starting February 20, 2024, and concluding on March 26, 2024. This group will explore "Seven Words, Listening to Christ from the Cross" by Susan Robb

CELEBRATION 165 SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

Be certain to mark your calendars and spread the word, as it will be a special day indeed. Worship will be led by Bishop Frank Beard. It is also Palm Sunday and there will be a catered celebration meal and fellowship immediately following worship. Please plan on attending and bringing anyone you know that has been a part of this church through the years.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please contact Brad Roush to volunteer There are tasks big and small to choose from. Many hands are needed. to help with the 165th anniversary celebration. We need all hands-on deck to make it a rousing success.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun Mar 03 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar 03 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Mon. Mar 04 6:30 pm United Women of Faith; Fellowship Hall
Sun Mar 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sun Mar 10 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar 10 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun Mar 17 7:00 am UMM Breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun Mar 17 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar 17 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun Mar 24 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar 24 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service—165th Anniversary Celebration
Sun. Mar 24 11:00 am 165th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon; Fellowship Hall

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 25 Eric and Lori Nixon
Feb 28 Imy Bengé

Feb 26 Cole Rappe`
Mar 02 Russel Hedges

CHOIR

Those wanting to sing in choir, stay after church on February 18. Let's plan to sing Palm Sunday and Easter.

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of soup, any kind of cereal and/or oatmeal, canned fruit, macaroni and cheese; toilet paper and shampoo. Cash donations are always welcome.

CHURCH BENCH

Great news! We have collected enough lids and our new bench, made from recycled caps, will be arriving soon. Thank you to everyone that has made this gift to the community possible.