

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT | 11:00 AM | MARCH 5, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

His Eye Is on the Sparrow
arr. Marilyn Ham

Mr. Justin Maxey
Director of Music & Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 121:1-4

Dr. Martin and People

I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

*HYMN 116

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

*INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

Dr. Martin and People

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Let us pray together:

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dr. Martin and People

Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:
"The peace of Christ be with you." **"And also with you."**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Joe Watson and People
Minister of Nurture

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

FIRST READING

Romans 4:13-17

Rev. Watson

¹³For 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. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For 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, ¹⁷as 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.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.
Thanks be to God.

MINISTRY MOMENT

Mr. Wayne Harris

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Dr. Martin

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Watson

OFFERTORY

Magnificat in C, Op. 115
Charles Villiers Stanford

Chancel Choir

My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY

OLD 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Dr. Martin

*Children are invited to return to seats after Children's Moment.
No Wonders of Worship today as we celebrate Communion together.*

*GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

Rev. Watson

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Martin

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

See insert

*HYMN 389

Freely, Freely

FREELY, FREELY

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Martin

*May the peace of Christ go with you wherever He may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our arms.*

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

Please remember in your prayers:

Van Askew
Nancy Byers
Richard Clayton

Karen Davis
Martha Hale
Don Harp

Tangie Hubbard
Cindy Jennings
Doris Kerlin

Claudia Rhodes
Brenda Tierman
Helen Voyles

In Memoriam
Shannon Wade
February 23, 2023

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Jon and Leslie Wade and Caitlin (Jose) Caballero upon the death of Jon and Leslie's daughter and Caitlin's sister, Shannon Alexandra Wade, on February 23.

QR Code to
CONNECT



QR Code for
WEEKENDER



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Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version
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AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;
Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM
NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

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GIVING



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SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

... And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might. heav'n and earth are full of your

8 glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high-est. Blest is he who comes in the

15 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high-est.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

... And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

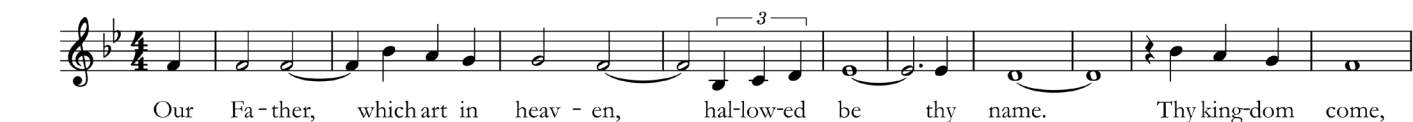
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

... By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.



And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:



HOLY COMMUNION

Gluten-free elements are available upon request at the chancel.

You are invited to contribute to the Benevolence Fund by leaving an offering
on the chancel rail. These funds are used to assist those in need.