

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Lent 4

Prelude

Welcome *Pastor Jeff will give announcements and welcome*

****Call to Worship** (*Liturgist parts are indicated in BOLD and ***)

****Good Morning, I am Pete Blinkilde, and will be serving as Worship Leader today. Would you please stand as you are comfortable and able to join me in the responsive Call to Worship?**

****Leader: The steadfast love of God surrounds us;
Be glad and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

People: We celebrate the good things of life that God provides.
We give thanks for God's steadfast love.

****Leader: Let all who are faithful offer prayers to God.
Come to listen for God's counsel and instruction.**

People: We are here to encounter the one who made us.
We are open to the Word God will speak.

****Leader: God hears our cries and answers our pleas.
Rejoice, O righteous, in God's justice and grace.**

People: Surely God is our strength and our hope.
We will trust in the one who provides all things.

****Will you join us in our opening song, "Be Thou My Vision", hymn #451 in the blue hymnal, the words will be on the screen.**

Opening Song *"Be Thou My Vision"* UMC Hymn #451

² **Would join with me in our Opening Prayer?**

Gracious God, who has provided for us a bountiful inheritance, help us in this time of worship to be fully aware of your rule in all of life and to be fully responsive to your Word. Listen to our cries, O God, and hear our voices as we plead our case to you. Be for us a hiding place in our times of distress. Lead us and make your way straight before us. Increase our faith through this time of joyous praise. Amen.

Prayers, the Lord's Prayer and Offering of Gifts

(Pastor Jeff will first do the prayers, Liturgist will read Invitation & pray)

****Invitation: Our possessions are given to us that we might know the joy of sharing. Our faith is tested by the response we offer to God's generosity. Come, share the joy of thankful giving. Join now in the outreach ministry to which God calls us.**

****Will you pray with me? We give thanks, generous God, because we owe you more than we can ever repay. We give because we love you and want to show our devotion. We give because there are needs to be met among us and in other places where we cannot go. We give because we need to be generous in order to be whole. Loving God, bless all givers who provide for others out of their means, and multiply these resources in your service. Amen.**

****Our Lenten Choir will sing, "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God".**

Praise Song *"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"* **Lenten Choir**

The Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, ‘There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man’s lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.’ Then David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, ‘As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.’

Nathan said to David, ‘You are the man!’

Habakkuk 1:2-4**NRSV**

**O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?
Or cry to you ‘Violence!’
and you will not save?
Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgement comes forth perverted.**

This the word of God, for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Message *"I Did It and Things Aren't Right"* Pastor Jeff Williams

Closing Song *"Let There Be Peace on Earth"* UMC Hymn #431

Blessing for the Week

Choral Benediction *"Blessing"* Lenten Choir

Postlude