

FirstCHURCH

First United Methodist Church of Boulder

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Boulder, CO 80302
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*"... Seeking justice,
loving kindness,
and walking humbly
with God!"
Micah 6:8*



"Living into Beloved Community through New Life!"

Sunday, March 29, 2020

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

PRELUDE "Holy, Holy, Holy" Tune: NICAEA, John B. Dykes (1823-1876)
Jordan Ortman, piano Arr. Brian Chung

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Celene Lillie
Welcome to worship this morning as we celebrate the 5th Sunday in Lent.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Stephanie Moffitt

SPECIAL MUSIC "Prelude on Ubi Caritas" Gerald W. Holbrook ©2010
Gerald Holbrook, organ

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE Matthias Krier

In our passage from the Gospel of John:
Is there anything that troubles you?
What is most helpful to you?

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Jennie Elliot

As United Methodists, we affirm the Wesleyan Quadrilateral:

The living core of the Christian faith is revealed in scripture, illumined by tradition, confirmed with reason and made real in personal experience.

(The United Methodist Book of Discipline)

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 11:1-45

The Death of Lazarus

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord,

I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

Jesus Weeps

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' **Jesus began to weep.** So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

The Plot to Kill Jesus

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This ends our reading of scripture. Amen.

REFLECTION

I am the Resurrection, and I Am the Life

Matthias Krier

BREAKOUT ROOMS

CANDLE LIGHTING COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Celene Lillie

You are invited to light a candle in your home as you lift up a prayer for family, community or world. You may also use the chat function on Zoom to share your

prayers with our community. Please don't forget to blow out your candle at the conclusion of today's service.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" Arr. Paul A. Tate
Jordan Ortman, piano

Tune: GROSSER GOTT from *Allgemeines Katholisches Gesangbuch* c. 1774,

PASTORAL PRAYER Celene Lillie

PRAYER OF JESUS

Our Mother and Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names. 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.

HYMN #140 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Faithfulness)
William M. Runyan, 1923

*BENEDICTION Matthias Krier

Do all the good you can.

By all the means you can.

In all the places you can.

At all the times you can.

With all the people you can.

As long as ever you can.

Amen.

Amen.

POSTLUDE "Praeludium in D" Johann Caspar Simon (1701-1776)
Gerald Holbrook, organ

TALKBACK SESSION Matthias Krier

Anyone wanting to have more time to discuss the scripture or time to process what is happening around the world are invited to stay in our Zoom meeting following the Postlude.

*This week, as we all live into the things around us,
let's remember to offer peace to one another.*

Sunday, April 5, 2020: Palm Passion Sunday

Join us for an online service at 10:30 am
as we read the Palm Passion Story from
chapters 14 & 15 of the Gospel of Mark.
Look for more details in the next edition of
Pastoral Ponderings, our Friday e-blast.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Palms for Palm Sunday ~ As FUMC prepares for its first-ever virtual Palm Passion Sunday worship service, we are hoping to make this a meaningful and heart-warming experience for each of us. While the Pine Street ecumenical gathering has been canceled, FUMC will have plenty of palms to wave! If you are interested in receiving a small bundle of palms a day or two before Palm Passion Sunday, here are some ways you can do that:

1. Email Ruth Irvin rirvin8718@gmail.com to let her know you'd like a small bundle of palms delivered to your doorstep. If you are in a living arrangement that does not allow visitors, or in an apartment that requires a code to enter the building, every effort will be made to leave the bundle at the front desk or by the mailboxes; apologies upfront if we can't do this. Hopefully, palm delivery can be accomplished on April 3 or 4 (Friday or Saturday before Palm Passion Sunday). We need your response by April 2 (Thursday).
2. Pick up a bundle by "driving through" at the church on Saturday, April 4 between 10:00 am and 12 noon. Maybe you can plan to get groceries at the same time. Please let Ruth know (email above) if you plan to use this option so that we'll have a general idea how many bundles of palms to prepare. You will not need to get out of your vehicle, and we will be as "protected" as we can be. We need your response by April 3 (Friday). Even if you don't respond, you can stop by anyway.

When you Zoom-in for the Palm Passion worship service on April 5, please have a palm or two available so that you can join in a virtual palm waving! If you have not worshiped via Zoom before, check the church website or *Pastoral Ponderings* for information on how to join in.

Calling All Musicians ~ If you would like to participate in our Sunday Zoom Services by contributing your musical talent, please contact Gerald Holbrook, our Director of Music: geraldholbrook99@gmail.com. All it entails is creating a video of you making music, and sending it to Gerald. This can be vocal or instrumental, or both. Solo, duet, trio, ensemble....everything is possible.

(more announcements on the next page)

UMW (United Methodist Women) News: Face Masks for COVID-19 ~ Do you want or need a face mask in light of the Coronavirus crisis? Days for Girls has a new campaign to make a million face masks for distribution worldwide. The local chapter that our UMW works with also received a request from several Denver health care facilities to make reusable CDC-compliant face masks. So some of our members have been making masks. We have also made several of the simple ones that we have available if you want some protection. Please email Connie Takamine (ctakamine@msn.com), and we'll figure out how to get one to you. Also if you are interested in helping to make masks, contact Connie. Boulder Community Hospital is also requesting masks. We have some fabric and other supplies you might need. Since these are considered medical supplies, we can deliver them in compliance with the Stay-at-Home order.

Helping Community Food Share during COVID-19 ~ Community Food Share is cordially and humbly requesting your donations for their Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund. Community Food Share is a food bank fighting hunger in Boulder and Broomfield Counties by providing access to fresh, nutritious food through their local partners and our onsite and mobile pantries. For many years, FUMC has collected food for Community Food Share every November. Like many organizations, they are in need of funds (now more than ever) to purchase food for the more than 40,000 hungry people in our community. If you are able to help with a donation, please use this link to make your gift: <http://bit.ly/COVID19CFS>.

What About Church Meetings? ~ All in-person meetings, events, and worship services have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some church groups have suspended meetings for the time being as we all wait to see what the coming weeks will bring. Others have moved their meetings online. If you aren't sure what your group is doing, please contact your group leader. If you'd like help setting up a Zoom meeting for your group, please contact Stephanie Moffitt: stephaniewm@fumcboulder.org.

Helping Out Attention Homes during COVID-19 ~ Our neighbors living in the Attention Homes Apartments are still in need of our support, especially during this trying time. While Attention Homes' administrative offices are closed, they are keeping the front hallway open during business hours (M-F, 9-5) so that individuals can drop off donations that they can distribute to their programs. They're seeking non-perishable food items, paper products, cleaning supplies, and activities such as new board games, cards, video games, a chromebook, manicure and makeup stuff, books, mixing board/stuff to make music with, puzzles, sudoku books, coloring books, and art supplies. Please bring all donations to 1440 Pine St., Suite B, Boulder. Also, if you'd like to provide a home-cooked meal for Attention Homes residents, please email Mo Shirley: mshirley@attentionhomes.org. Visit Attention Homes' website for more information: www.attentionhomes.org.