

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

TO SHINE WITH
THE LIGHT
OF JESUS CHRIST
SO THAT OTHERS
WILL KNOW
AND LOVE HIM



+ Those who are able are invited to stand.
UMH-United Methodist Hymnal**FWS*–The Faith We Sing
You are invited to respond with the **Bold** responses.

MOMENTS OF CENTERING

O Christ, you take upon yourself all our burdens
so that freed of all that weighs us down, we can
constantly begin anew to walk with lightened step,
from worry towards trusting,
from the shadows toward the clear flowing water,
from our own will towards the vision
of the coming Kingdom.

And then we know, though we had hardly dared to
hope it, that you offer to make every human being
a reflection of your face and light...

Thanks be to God! Welcome to Worship!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Carolyn Brown*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE *Dan Martin*

SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*
Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."

+CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *FWS 2086*
Open Our Eyes, Lord

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus, to reach
out and touch him, and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*
God's mercy floods over us.

Lord, wash me clean of the pain in my life.

God's love pours into us.

Lord, pour your love into every pore of my being.
Let the love and mercy of God reign in your heart
today.

Be with me, Lord, and guide my life.

+OPENING PRAYER *Leader*

Lord, this Lenten journey has been filled with the
unexpected. You have asked us to look deep within
ourselves, to identify the many ways in which we have
turned away from you. Again, this day we ask that you
open our hearts to receive your word of healing and
hope. The cross of Good Friday looms in our future
and we face it with fear. Bring us through this time
with confidence and trust in your guiding love.

For we ask this in Jesus' Name.

Amen.

+ HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 57*
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing, vv. 1 - 5

THE CHURCH FAMILY IN CONFESSION

THE PSALTER *Psalms 51:1-12*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Responsively*

Let us pray for the cleansing of our hearts, confessing
our sins to the One whose mercy is everlasting.
(pause)

Gracious and Patient God, we come before you with
so many things which weigh us down. We would like

an "easy" faith, one that doesn't cause us to look
within ourselves, to recognize those many ways in
which we have forsaken you. But faith is never easy.
It requires our very souls. Forgive us, God, for all
those things which we have neglected to do that would
have helped someone else to be closer to you.

**Heal our hearts and prepare our lives to be in
service to you. Strengthen us to live without
complaining and arguing so that we can shine like
bright lights in places that are so dark. In silence
we wait. We long for your presence for you're our
healing touch.**

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *Responsively*
God is merciful.

God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Feel the healing, loving power of God in your lives,
for it is given to you through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Unison*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. 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.**

CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS *UMH 398*
Jesus Calls Us, vv. 1, 3, 5

1. **Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild,
restless sea; day by day his sweet voice
soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me!"**
3. **Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain
world's golden store, from each idol that would
keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"**
5. **Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we
hear thy call, give our hearts to thine
obedience, serve and love thee best of all.**

THE CHURCH SHARES ITS BLESSINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

*Beginning next Sunday, First Church will return to Ushers, offering plates, and an offertory. Today, if you're worshipping "In-Person," please leave your Gifts in Linger Hall, or MAIL your Gift to First UMC. Or, Electronically, go to www.FirstChurchUM.com then click "**DONATE**."*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We dedicate these offerings to the sharing of your Word and your ways. We reach out with joy and gladness to offer your love to the world. May these gifts enable the sharing of your presence with many who have not experienced the joy of your salvation. As we keep covenant with you, we would also share its joys where the joy of salvation is needed. Amen.

+DOXOLOGY UMH 95

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

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO CHILDRENS SERMON

Give Thanks *TFWS 2036*

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. And now, let the weak say, "I am strong;" let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us." Give thanks!

WIGGLETIME

Following Wiggletime, the Children are invited
to join the Leaders in Linger Hall for
CHILDREN'S CHURCH

WORD IN MUSIC

Chancel Choir

SERMON

Rev. M. Steven Meadows

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION UMH 580
Lead On, O King Eternal

+SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*
Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

+BENEDICTION *Pastor*
Go forth in the abundant mercy of God, seek Jesus with your whole heart, and bear the fruit of his kingdom. For the One who gave himself over to death has given this world new life. Thanks be to God.
Amen.

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

...and the worship continues.

