

Parents -Please escort your children to the restrooms.

Thank you.

§ Denotes when to stand as you are able

WE GATHER to be NURTURED

Prelude Prelude and Fugue in F Major ~ *J.S. Bach*

Ringing of the Bell

Please sign registration sheets and pass to others in your pew.

§ **Crown of Thorns** **“I AM the Light of the World”**

Leader: Light. Without it, we stumble blindly in the darkness.
With it, everything is illumined and clear.

People: Sometimes the light is dim.

Leader: Sometimes it flickers, ready to die.

People: But as long as we have it to guide our path,
we are safe.

Leader: Christ is called the Light of the World,
and we, as his followers,
are instructed to walk in the light, as he is in the light.

People: You are the light of the world!
Let your light shine before men!

Leader: Jesus was living out his last days,
yet his light never wavered.

People: If we were in his place,
knowing death awaited us soon,
would we still reflect our light?
Would our brightness shine against the darkness
of the world?

Leader: And what about now?
Does our faith--our light--burn brightly?
Or does it flicker uncertainly in the tumult
of our daily lives?

Would we rather stay in the darkness
after the candles are extinguished,
or do we yearn for the light?

People: For it is light that makes everything visible.

Leader: This is why it is said, “Wake up, O sleeper,
rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

People: Let us gather strength from the example of Jesus
as he faced the darkness of his own death.

Psalter UMH #788

Psalms 63:1-8

§ **Opening Hymn UMH #340**

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People

Rev. Calvin Culpepper

The Lord’s Prayer, UMH #895

WE ARE NURTURED by GOD’S WORD

Scripture Lesson - Old Testament p. 685 Isaiah 55:1-9

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Response “Come to the Water” ~ *John Foley*

Hymn FWS #2129 **“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”**

Children’s Message *James L. Crow*

Hymn FWS #2270, refrain **“He Has Made Me Glad”**

§ Scripture Lesson - New Testament p. 76 Luke 13:1-9

Leader: This is the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Sermon “At-tension” *Rev. Dr. Richard Wang*

WE RESPOND to GOD’S WORD

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

Offertory

“All Hail The Power of Jesus’ Name” ~ *Heinrich Fleischer*

§ **Doxology #95** **“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

WE ARE SCATTERED to SERVE

§ **Hymn of Sending Forth FWS #2182**

“When God Restored Our Common Life”

§ **Benediction** *St. Patrick (389-461)*

May the strength of God pilot us. May the power of God pre-
serve us. May the wisdom of God instruct us. May the hand of
God protect us. May the way of God direct us. May the shield
of God defend us. **Amen.**

Postlude “Fugue in Eb major” ~ *J.S. Bach*

Fellowship Time in the Narthex

**We thank Rev. Dr. Richard Wang
for being our guest leader today.**

“Strike the Rock: A Double Passion” for Chorus and instruments will be presented during worship service at 10 am on Sunday, March 20th. Sinai and Calvary...though a desert apart, both were mountains scaled by men called to deliver a people from captivity. Experience the Passion of Christ as foreshadowed by Moses – revealing how Moses’ obedience (and his one fateful act of disobedience) shook the prophecy of Calvary. Featuring choruses by 9 different composers, and orchestrated by James Marck for strings, chorus, handbells and percussion, this Passion setting will accompany Court Street’s Palm Sunday worship service, including the blessing and procession of palm branches.



We welcome you, member or visitor, as we join in worshipping God this morning. We pray you will be blessed and invite you to return!

Study with Pastor Cal at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays in the Parlor. Purchase your book for \$13 in the Church Office.

Did you put your cross down? Pick it back up by coming to a 30 minute worship at noon this Wednesday in the Chapel. Stay afterwards for a light lunch in the Dining Room for a free-will donation.

Holy COW (Church On Wednesday)! on March 2nd!

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

• Rev. Rhoads’ class in the Library - Adults

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

• Dinner by Diane in the Dining Room for only \$3.50/person

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

• Men’s Fellowship Group in the Parlor

• **“Living Lent” Study** in the Dining Room

Each session in this Bible study includes Bible readings, prayers, questions and discussion starters related to these words to consider while living Lent as Easter people: Ponder, Purpose, People, Proclaim, Praise, and Pain. Purchase your book for \$5 in the Church Office.

The Scrip committee thanks you for your purchases in 2015. We want to ask you to keep Scrip purchases in mind for your regular shopping needs. Some of our biggest returns come from: Chili’s -11%, Backyard Grill-10%, The Olympic- 10%, Culver’s- 10%, Panera Bread-9%, The Olive Garden/Red Lobster -9%. You can always stop by the church office during normal business hours to purchase Scrip cards. Consider buying a card or two to have on hand, such as AMC, for when you want to go to the movies.

Thanks to Nancy Stanis, Gwen Culpepper, and the Local Mission Committee for signing up to help with the LAST CRISIS CENTER MEAL that we will prepare and serve on March 9, 2016. If anyone else wants to join the team, please sign your name on the list in the Narthex or call Barb Ferry at 815-965-6518. Thanks to all of those who have faithfully participated in this mission.

Next Sunday, March 2, we will take a special offering called One Great Hour of Sharing. Donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover costs of doing business. UMCOR is not subsidized by the United Methodist World Service Fund or apportionment funds, so without your gifts, UMCOR could not guarantee that 100% of all other funds raised will be used for a specific cause. Please make your check out to CSUMC with “One Great Hour” in the memo.

Be sure to read both sides of the green card insert as you won’t want to miss the Maundy Thursday presentation of “The Living Last Supper,” as well as the delicious meal afterwards. “The Living Last Supper” is free admission. Please see the card for the cost of the meal.

Don’t forget to check the calendar on the back for additional events.



