

§ Denotes when to stand as you are able

WE GATHER to be NURTURED

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

Ringing of the Bell - Please use this to begin focusing for worship.

Prelude "Lost in the Night" ~ Dale Wood

§ Call to Worship

Leader: We begin a journey of faith.
Jesus is our leader and our guide.

People: We place our trust in him.

Leader: As the daylight hours grow longer,
our journey takes on a urgency.

People: We must prepare our hearts for Jerusalem.

Leader: Do not fear! God goes before us, into Jerusalem,
into the world.

People: Amen!

§ Opening Hymn UMH #156 "I Love to Tell the Story"

Sharing of Joys and Journeys *Rev. Calvin Culpepper*
Mission Moment *Diane Risley, Stewardship*

Prayer of Intercession

Heavenly Father, when our wilderness journey ends and normalcy returns to our lives, remind us to look back and see where you carried us, deepened our faith and provided us with your loving care. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Holy Spirit, when suffering is the result of our own sin, inspire us to turn around, ask for help, accept your forgiveness and live a new life in your grace. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Holy Spirit, reconciling God, in Christ make us a new creation by forgiving our sins and sending us out with a mission to be your ambassadors of love, peace and new life. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Almighty God, hope beyond hope, love beyond understanding, forgiver and forgetter of our awful sins, wait for us in patience, but needle us with the memory of your loving self, our loving home. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Lord Jesus, as you told parables in order to make the gospel clear, put us in a story of your choosing, and bring us to a deeper faith in you. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

We pray for those who need to be reminded that there is healing in your presence and homecoming, because there is a home. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

From every wilderness day, good Lord, deliver us. **Amen.**

WE ARE NURTURED by GOD'S WORD

New Testament Reading Romans 10:8b-13
Please refer to your Bible's Table of Contents to locate this scripture.
Leader: This is the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Musical Witness "Brother James Air" ~ Arr. Jacob
"Sing to The Lord" ~ Michael Jothen
Youth Choir

Hymn UMH #657 "This Is the Day"
The children are invited to come forward as we sing.

Children's Message "Sweet Temptation" James L. Crow

Hymn FWS #2129, vs 1 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

§ Gospel Reading Luke 4:1-13
Please refer to your Bible's Table of Contents to locate this scripture.
Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Journeying To Jerusalem: "Walking Thru the Wilderness"
Rev. Calvin Culpepper

WE RESPOND to GOD'S WORD

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves
Offertory

§ Doxology UMH #95
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

WE ARE SCATTERED to SERVE

§ Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #548
"In Christ There Is No East or West"

Extinguishing the 1st Candle on our Journey to Jerusalem

§ Benediction
The journey has begun. God is with you. Go forth to learn, to teach, to serve. Go bringing peace and hope to all in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
Solo Response "Amen"

Postlude "Lenten Lament" ~ Lani Smith
You are invited to finish worship by listening to the Postlude.
If you wish to leave, you may do so,
leaving quietly so others may enjoy the Postlude.

Facetime by the Big Bell



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

Prayerfully consider joining in a small group study of Mike Slaughter's book, "Made for a Miracle," during Lent. Pastor Cal will be leading a group on Sundays, beginning TODAY, at 11:30 in the Church Parlor. If Friday at 1:00 p.m. works better for you, sessions begin this Friday, March 15, at Joanne Muck's, 1812 Meadows Circle. Eight (8) Books left for \$14 each - scholarships are available.

TODAY we will be taking a special offering to help us meet our Apportionment. There is an insert to help you understand the importance of this offering. You may make your check out to CSUMC with "Apportionment" on the memo line.

Pick up a Lenten Offering folder from the Narthex to practice self-denial and give a little extra to forward God's missions. It's an easy, fun way to mark off the days until Easter; only 25 cents a day goes in each slot with nothing for Sundays as they are 'mini-Easters'.

Come to a 30 minute worship at Noon this Wednesday, March 13th, in the Chapel and hear Rev. Norma Lee Barnhart speak on 'You Were Made for a Miracle.' Afterwards, get a light lunch in the Dining Room for a free-will donation. We will continue with mid-week services on Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel through the Lenten season. All are invited.

Noisy Offering is coming next Sunday, March 17th!!
Save your coins & help support Waffles & Worship

Join us for the 1st Annual 'Night in Italy' Fundraiser for Jeremiah Development. The evening includes Cocktail Hour, Italian Dining "Under the Stars", Silent Auction, Trivia Contest, and Photo Booth complete with gondola and Italian backdrop! Come for a festive night of friendship, fine food and fun! Tickets: \$45 each, 2 for \$80, or \$300 for a table of 8. Tickets available online at JeremiahDevelopment.org, at the door, from Court Street's Church Office, or Joan Tunnell. Proceeds go to Jeremiah Development, NFP to help support LOVE Rockford, Jeremiah Garden, and programs to build a strong neighborhood in the near west-side downtown area of Rockford.

If you're looking for ways to cross the cultural divide, join Jeremiah Development as we cross Court St! Beginning March 16th and once a month after that, we will be hand delivering a newsletter to residents who live in the Jeremiah area. We would like a team of about 8-10 people willing to give up 2-2.5 hours on a Saturday morning once a month. We have a core group of about 6 people that delivered last summer and we would like to add to that team. We meet at 9 am and we are done by 11-11:30. If you are interested in participating, please email Sue Kanthak at sue@jeremiahdevelopment.org.

There are extra copies of Garden Bazaar Order Forms in the Narthex. Don't forget to pick some up to give to your family and friends.

