

Blessing our Gifts with Music and Prayer Lay Reader
Many Voices: Generous God, you are the source of all we have and all we are. Bless our gifts of money and of our lives, that we may partner with you in building your commonwealth here and now. Amen.

***Singing** "As A Fire is Meant for Burning" TFWS #2237

***Sending Forth** Pastor Dave

Exiting Music

**Please stand if you are able.*

LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

LAY READER GAIL GIRARD
SONG LEADERS GAIL GIRARD & RUTH SATORIUS

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS ALL DISCIPLES OF JESUS
LEAD PASTOR REV. DAVE BUERSTETTA
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**Minooka
United Methodist
Church**

**Rev. Dave Buerstetta,
Pastor**

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Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church

Sunday, February 18th, 2024

11:30AM

Mark 2:1-12 (Contemporary English Version)

2 Jesus went back to Capernaum, and a few days later people heard that he was at home. 2 Then so many of them came to the house that there wasn't even standing room left in front of the door.

Jesus was still teaching 3 when four people came up, carrying a man on a mat because he could not walk. 4 But because of the crowd, they could not get him to Jesus. So they made a hole in the roof above him and let the man down in front of everyone.

5 When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the man, "My friend, your sins are forgiven."

6 Some of the teachers of the Law of Moses were sitting there. They started wondering, 7 "Why would he say such a thing? He must think he is God! Only God can forgive sins."

8 At once, Jesus knew what they were thinking, and he said, "Why are you thinking such things? 9 Is it easier for me to tell this man his sins are forgiven or to tell him to get up and pick up his mat and go on home? 10 I will show you that the Son of Man has the right to

forgive sins here on earth.” So Jesus said to the man, 11 “Get up! Pick up your mat and go on home.”

12 The man got right up. He picked up his mat and went out while everyone watched in amazement. They praised God and said, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Entering Music

Welcoming & Observing a Meaningful Lent

Pastor Dave

Dear siblings in Christ:

The early followers of Jesus observed with great devotion the days of Jesus’ passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church that before Easter celebration there should be a 40-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus the Christ, and the need we all have to repent and renew our faith.

I invite you therefore to observe a meaningful Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on the scriptures which point us to Jesus who is God’s Word, the Messiah, the Liberating King, the Christ.

Preparing

*Gathering

Lay Reader

Reader: God our Mother and Father, we come to you as children. Be with us as we learn to see one another with new eyes,

Many Voices: Hear one another with new hearts, and treat one another in a new way. Amen.

*Singing

“Welcome”

Worship & Song #3152

Blessing Children

Praying

Lay Reader

[Quiet reflection]

Reader: Merciful God, life – your life – is so freely and abundantly available. Your life pulses in all creation, in every human being, and in all creation. Yet we have allowed ourselves to be seduced by death, and have left ourselves and our planet thirsty and lethargic. We confess we destroy rain forests to exploit immediate resources for short term profits.

Many Voices: We pray that your life teaches us restraint.

Reader: We confess our waste piles up and poisons the earth and the lives of the creatures in it.

Many Voices: We pray that your life teaches us wisdom.

Reader: We confess we stunt the growth and nurture of children with poverty and inequality.

Many Voices: We pray that your life teaches us generosity and compassion.

Reader: We confess life in all its various expressions is denied and suppressed by hatred, bigotry, self-interest, war, and megalomania.

Many Voices: We pray that your life teaches us love and humility.

[Quiet reflection]

Reader: Teach us, O God, to really live—abundantly, freely, generously and humbly—that life may be nurtured, multiplied and shared in all its amazing diversity through us.

[Quiet reflection]

Reader: Our prayer continues as Jesus taught us, saying... [Lord’s Prayer, UMH #894]

Singing

“Trust and Obey”

UMH #467

Reading Scripture Mark 2:1-12 (Contemporary English Version)

Lay Reader

Reader: May God add blessing to the reading, hearing, and living of these words.

Many Voices: Amen

Proclaiming

“Lent, What’s it Good For?”

Pastor Dave

*Singing

“Sanctuary”

TFWS #2164

Giving

Pastor Dave

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

Verse 1

As a fire is meant for burning
With a bright and warming flame,
So the church is meant for mission,
Giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
But to build a bridge of care,
We join hands across the nations,
Finding neighbors everywhere.

Verse 2

We are learners; we are teachers;
We are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
We are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
We would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
We would live to God's delight.

Verse 3

As a green bud in the springtime
Is the sign of life renewed,
So may we be signs of oneness
'Mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
When a storm is past and gone,
May our lives reflect the radiance
Of God's new and glorious dawn.

HYMNS

Welcome

Verse 1

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,
To be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,

Refrain

Singing welcome, welcome to this place
You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.

Verse 2

Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray, (Refrain)

Verse 3

Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
Where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice,
(Refrain)

Trust and Obey

Verse 1

When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Verse 2

Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey. (Refrain)

Verse 3

But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey. (Refrain)

Verse 4

Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey. (Refrain)

CCLI Song # 3107270

Daniel Brink Towner | John Henry Sammis | Nancy R. (Gordon) Nesbitt

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Sanctuary

Chorus

Lord, prepare me
To be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy,
Tried and true.
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You. (X2)

CCLI Song # 24140

John W. Thompson | Randy Scruggs

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