

## Lenten Caravan



Wednesday February 21, 2024 7 p.m.

Host Church: Ventura First United Methodist Rev. Diane Rehfield, Pastor

## **Lenten Caravan Churches & Pastors**

All Saints Episcopal Church—the Rev. Melissa Campbell-Langdell, Pastor
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church—the Rev. Benjamin Thomas, Pastor
North Oxnard United Methodist Church (Garden Church) &
First United Methodist Church of Ventura—the Rev. Diane Rehfield and
the Rev. Cindy Huskey, Pastors

St. Paul's United Methodist Church—the Rev. Rachel deBos-Haigler, Pastor
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oxnard—the Rev. Nancy Switzler, Pastor
New Progressive Christian Baptist Church—Bishop Lamont Chiles-Hayes, Pastor
Also participating: Our Savior's Church, Oxnard—the Rev. Jade Mohorko-Ortiz, Pastor

Worship Celebration

**PRELUDE** 

Miriam Arichea

Pastor Diane Rehfield

ROLL CALL A Caravan Pastor

(Calls each of the participating churches-host church last, having the members to stand to acknowledge their presence. A little inter-mural competition of the holy rowdiness)

MISSION STATEMENT (Read in Unison)

A Caravan Pastor

In the spirit of love and contrition, we, the Lenten Caravan gather together during the Lenten Season to Praise the Lord! As Sisters and Brothers in Christ, we understand the need to come together as partners in the common struggle, to enhance the spiritual, physical, emotional, economical, and political health of our community. We can accomplish this by asking the Holy Spirit to empower us to love so we may become a true Christian Community.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

A Caravan Pastor

Lord, we come before you, knowing that we fall short of being the people you know we can be. Forgive us Lord.

Yet we know that your mercy is abundant, and your grace is amazing.

We are grateful for your love. With gratitude we remember that Jesus forgave the criminal on the cross who asked to be

remembered, assuring him that he would be in paradise with Jesus that very day.

As we worship this evening, may our hearts be open to who we might yet be, and may they be full of gratitude for the love, grace, and forgiveness that you offer to us. Amen

\* HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

UMH 526

PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM A Lenten Prayer by Hal Hopson

FUMC Chancel Choir; Bob Riggs—conductor; Miriam Arichea—piano

Luke 23: 39-43 SCRIPTURE

A Caravan Pastor

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Word of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Diane Rehfield MESSAGE

\* Hymn

When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise

TFWS 2216

**OFFERTORY** 

Today's offering supports feeding ministries Family to Family in Ventura (https://familytofamilyvc.org) and Bread of Life in Oxnard. Please make checks payable to Bethel AME or give online at givelify.com (Choose Bethel AME in Oxnard and note Lenten Caravan)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Caravan Pastor

Gracious Lord God, for all we have been given, we give thanks. We pray that as we have been blessed, our offering tonight will bless those who will receive it. May it touch the lives of many, serving as an example of your love, your grace, and your compassion. Amen

*Are Ye Able* UMH 530 HYMN

A Caravan Pastor BENEDICTION

Miriam Arichea **POSTLUDE** 

We hope to see you again next week as the Lenten Caravan continues at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church - 721 Doris Ave, Oxnard, CA 93030