

Order of Worship
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
9:30 am – February 25, 2024

Participating Live?

Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.

PRELUDE

Miriam Arichea, piano

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Bruce Miller, liturgist

Our Heavenly Creator, you have called us to heavenly things. You have called us to be born of the Spirit, to live into the birth of our baptism.

Help us to choose the path that leads to new life.

As you called Abram and Sarai out of their homeland, so, too, you call us to new and unexpected places. The mysteries of the Holy Spirit call us to new and unexpected journeys.

Help us to choose the path that leads to new life.

Jesus spoke in paradox, proclaiming that those who wished to save their lives must give up their lives and follow him. Grant us strength to take up our crosses and follow.

Help us to choose the path that leads to new life. Amen.

(The Call to Worship is adapted from *A Time to Grow* by Kara Eidson, ©2022, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky)

OPENING HYMN

God, Whose Love is Reigning O'er Us

UMH 100

Words: William Boyd Grove, 1980. Used with Permission. Music: John Goss, 1869. Public Domain

- 1 God, whose love is reigning o'er us, source of all, the ending true; hear the universal chorus raised in joyful praise to you: Alleluia, Alleluia, worship ancient, worship new.

- 2 Word of God from nature bringing springtime green and autumn gold; mountain streams like children singing, ocean waves like thunder bold: Alleluia, Alleluia, as creation's tale is told.

- 3 Holy God of ancient glory, choosing man and woman, too; Abr'am's faith and Sarah's story formed a people bound to you. Alleluia, Alleluia, to your covenant keep us true.

- 4 Covenant, new again in Jesus, Starchild born to set us free; sent to heal us, sent to teach us how love's children we might be. Alleluia, Alleluia, risen Christ, our Savior he!

- 5 Lift we then our human voices in the songs that faith would bring; live we then in human choices lives that, like our music, sing: Alleluia, Alleluia, joined in love our praises ring!

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

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.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18; Mark 8: 31-38 NRSV

Bruce Miller, liturgist

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (Children and Youth come to the steps for a word from the pastor)

PREPARATION HYMN*Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom*

UMH 314

Words: Anders Frostenson, 1960; trans. By Fred Kaan, 1972. © Ansgar Film & Bokproduktion; trans. ©1976 Hope Publishing Co.
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1. Faith, while trees are still in blossom, plans the picking of the fruit;
 Faith can feel the thrill of harvest when the buds begin to sprout.

2. Long before the dawn is breaking, faith anticipates the sun.
 Faith is eager for the daylight, for the work that must be done.

3. Long before the rains were coming, Noah went and built an ark.
 Abraham, the lonely migrant, saw the light beyond the dark.

4. Faith, uplifted, tamed the water of the undivided sea,
 And the people of the Hebrews found the path that made them free.

5. Faith believes that God is faithful: God will be what God will be!
 Faith accepts the call, responding, "I am willing, Lord, send me."

MESSAGE

Pastor Diane Rehfield

MUSICAL RESPONSE*In His Steps*

VFUMC Chancel Choir, Bob Riggs—guest conductor; Miriam Arichea

contributors: R Kevin Boesiger, R Kevin Boesiger

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord, you offer us abundant life. You gift us with food to eat, water to drink, air to breathe, and your Son to follow. As we have received, so may we give abundantly, that others too might have clean water, fresh food, clean air, and the knowledge of your great love and grace. Amen

SENDING HYMN*Canto de Esperanza (Song of Hope)*

TFWS 2186

Words: Alvin Schutmaat. Public Domain.; Music: Argentine folk melody. Public Domain.

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
 May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.
 Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
 Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

¡Dios de la esperanza, danos gozo y paz! Al mundo en crisis, habla tu verdad.
 Dios de la justicia, mándanos tu luz, luz y esperanza en la oscuridad.
 Oremos por la paz, cantemos de tu amor. Luche mos por la paz, fieles a ti, Señor.

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
 May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.
 Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
 Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Prayer Requests

Northridge UMC —Pastor Douglas Dickson

Northridge UMC—Pastor Ralph Kwon

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.

2024 Lenten Caravan

Worship & Dinner • In Person & Livestream

The Seven last words

Ash Wednesday, February 14

"Father forgive them..." Luke 23:34

All Saints Episcopal Church, Oxnard

February 21

"Today you will be..." Luke 23:39-43

First United Methodist Church of Ventura

February 28

"Woman, behold your son..." John:25-27

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oxnard

March 6

"I thirst." John 19:28-29

North Oxnard United Methodist Church
(Garden Church)

March 13

"My God, my God, why..." Mark 15:33-34

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Oxnard

March 20

"It is finished." John 19:30

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Oxnard

Good Friday, March 29

"Father, into your hands..." Luke 23:44-46

New Progressive Baptist Church, Oxnard

5:45pm Dinner • 7:00pm Worship

Please RSVP for dinner

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