

**Sunday, February 26, 2023**

*Lent 1*

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**\*\*Call to Worship**

**\*\*Leader: Awake, people of God, and stay alert for Christ's coming.  
Grace to you and peace from God who sent Jesus to us.**

People: Make your ways known to us, O God.  
Show us once more your awesome presence.

**\*\*Leader: We are all God's people; no one is excluded.  
Come together as God's family for worship and prayer.**

People: Let the mountains quake before you, mighty God.  
Let the nations tremble in awe and reverence.

**\*\*Leader: Praise the One who grants us the gift of life.  
Give thanks for God's continuing faithfulness.**

People: Heaven and earth will pass away,  
But the Word of God is true for all times and places.

**Opening Song "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul" C #510**

**Opening Prayer**

**Amid threatening clouds of anger and selfish strife, come, O God, to bring light. Into our days of worry and anxiety, send a confident hope. Enrich us with spiritual gifts that transcend disappointments and spill out in generous compassion for all your suffering children. Meet us today where we are so we may be equipped for trials yet to come and for joys yet to be revealed. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Prayers, the Lord's Prayer and Offering of Gifts

**\*\*Invitation:** We have been enriched and strengthened in so many ways by the gifts of God. Now we have the privilege of sharing God's Word with the world. Our offerings enable our church's witness in this community and a caring outreach around the globe. Let us give as we have been blessed.

**\*\*Will you pray with me?** Gracious God, we give our best to you, not out of guilt or fear, but with gratitude and faith. You have been our support in times of need. Every breath we take is a gift from you. We would be awake and watchful for opportunities to make a difference, to help others be alert for your presence, to value life in all its fullness, and to learn to care. We dedicate these symbols of thankfulness and all the days of our lives to those purposes. Amen.

**Praise Song**            *"Where Do I Go?"*

**\*\*Scripture Reading**    **Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
 so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
 as when fire kindles brushwood  
 and the fire causes water to boil—  
 to make your name known to your adversaries,  
 so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
 From ages past no one has heard,  
 no ear has perceived,  
 no eye has seen any God besides you,  
 who works for those who wait for him.

**You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.**

### **Psalm 13 NRSV**

**How long, O Lord? Will you forget me for ever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I bear pain in my soul,  
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?  
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?**

**Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!  
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,  
and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed';  
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.  
But I trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.**

**I will sing to the Lord,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

**This the word of God, for the people of God.** Thanks be to God.

**Message** *“Open Heaven and Get Down Here!”* Pastor Jeff Williams

**Closing Song** *“God Will Take Care of You”* UMC Hymn #130

**Blessing for the Week**

**Postlude**