

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, March 5, 2023
2nd Sunday in Lent**

Announcements: Dan Tagatac

Prelude

Welcome: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Call to Worship:

Leader: Open your hearts to God's love today.

People: In the midst of winter darkness, we seek the brightness of God's love.

Leader: Don't be afraid. God is with you.

People: With the Lord's help, we can overcome the darkness.

Leader: The Lord is your light and your salvation.

**People: Even though everything around us is disturbing, yet God's love is constant. Thanks be to God.
AMEN.**

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

Gracious and glorious Lord, we come, as did Nicodemus, with questions on our hearts and in our lives. We come hoping someone can help us find answers and healing. But we are also hardened with doubts about self, others, and even you. Grant us healing and openness to your spirit, that we may be better servants of your Word, your Will, and your Way. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

*Opening Hymn: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" UMH #103

*Praise Song: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" TFWS #2088

Prayer Hymn: "Give Thanks" TFWS #2036

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

[For those joining us online, please submit your prayer requests in the comments on the virtual attendance sheet, or email the church office. Your prayer requests will be lifted up in next Sunday's service.]

Scripture Reading: John 3:1-17 Gilbert Healton

Sermon: "We Really Don't Know Well" Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Offering Time: Today's Special Offering will benefit our local First Responders.

Donations can be made through our Giving Page: www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "3 Notes" Mitch Samu

*Doxology: "Thank You God" Mitch Samu

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

God, our help and our hope, bless these gifts, that they may bring help to the needy and hope to the despairing. Bless us this day, that our very lives may be gifts of help and hope for your world. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Celebration of Communion:

*Sung Responses: "Communion Settings"

UMH pages 12-14
TFWS #2257 (b, c, d)

Communion Hymn:

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

UMH #618

Prayer: (In Unison)

UMH page 39

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Closing Hymn:

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

UMH #147

*Benediction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude

Scripture Passage for Sunday, March 5, 2023

Liturgist: Gilbert Heaton

John 3:1-17 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."^[b] ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You^[c] must be born from above.'^[d] ⁸ The wind^[e] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you^[f] do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.^[g] ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[h]

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn:
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
UMH #103

(Verse 1)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious,
The Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Thy great name we praise.

(Verse 2)

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains
High soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains
Of goodness and love.

(Verse 3)

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish
As leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish,
But naught changeth thee.

(Verse 4)

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render:
O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor
Of light hideth thee.

Praise Hymn:
Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
TFWS #2088

(Verse)

Lord, I lift Your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life;
I'm so glad You came to save us.

(Chorus)

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way,
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

(Repeat All)

Prayer Hymn:
Give Thanks
TFWS #2036

(Chorus)

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son
(X2)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us."
(X2)

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son
(X2)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us."
(X2)

Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

**Doxology:
Thank You God
Mitch Samu**

Thank you God,
Thank you God,
Thank you God,
For giving me this life I get to live.

Thank you God,
Love you God,
Praise you God,
Forever I will give all I can give.

Amen!

**Communion Settings:
TFWS #2257
(b, c, d)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord;
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blest if the one who comes
In the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

**Communion Hymn:
Let Us Break Bread Together
UMH #618**

Let us break bread together on our knees,
(On our knees)

Let us break bread together on our knees.
(On our knees)

When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.
(On me)

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
(On our knees)

Let us drink wine together on our knees.
(On our knees)

When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.
(On me)

Let us praise God together on our knees,
(On our knees)

Let us praise God together on our knees.
(On our knees)

When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.
(On me)

Let us praise God together on our knees,
(On our knees)

Let us praise God together on our knees.
(On our knees)

When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy if You please.
(If You please)

**Closing Hymn:
All Things Bright and Beautiful
UMH #147**

(Chorus)

**All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.**

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
And made their tiny wings.

(Repeat Chorus)

The purple headed mountains,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky.

(Repeat Chorus)

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one.

(Repeat Chorus)

God gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

(Repeat Chorus)

March 5, 2023
Announcements:

Welcome to worship at the First United Methodist Church of Freehold, we are glad you are with us.

It's time to order your **Easter Flowers!** Order forms can be found in the Newsletter, or picked up in Fellowship Hall during regular office hours, or on Sunday mornings.

Join us this **Wednesday, March 8th** as we host the **Lenten Lunch and Prayer Service**. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon, prayer service will be held at 12:30 p.m. and lunch will resume at 1:00 p.m. Msgr. Sam Siriani of the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine will be our guest preacher. A complete schedule of the Lenten Lunch and Prayer services is included below.

We are collecting items for "Blessing Bags". See below for a list of needed items. Donations can be dropped off at the church during regular office hours, or on Sunday mornings.

Blessing Bags (Toiletries for 1 week)

- Toothbrush and Small Toothpaste (travel size okay)
- Shampoo, small (travel size okay)
- Deodorant, small (travel size okay. Need both men and women scents)
- Soap, small (travel size okay)
- Body Wash, small
- Hand/Body Lotion. Small (travel size okay)

Optional:

- Single Pack of Tissues
- Comb
- 2-Blade or 3-Blade Disposable Razors
- Shaving Lotion or Cream, small (tube preferred)
- Dental Floss (travel size)

Our collection for our **First Responders** has been extended to March 12th. Representatives from each branch will be joining us on March 19th for a blessing. For monetary donations, please mark your envelope "First Responders". If you are giving a check, please put "First Responders" in the memo line (please make the check payable to FUMC).

The Stitcher's Circle is very pleased to announce that they have 6 participating members. They will meet next on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. at the church. Group members are offering to teach both crocheting and knitting skills to anyone who would like to learn. For more information, or to join the circle, contact AnnMarie Meredith: amt8790@gmail.com

Reservations are still being taken for the **women's spiritual retreat April 30 – May 2** at the Carriage House Bed & Breakfast in Ocean Grove. Space is limited. If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please contact Rita Curven or Christina Zito.

Support Becky & Marshall Gorman and Ken Budka as they perform with the **Monmouth Civic Chorus** on Sunday, March 12th at 4:00 p.m. at the Parish of St. Mary in Colts Neck.

Regular admission \$40, Senior \$35, Group (10+) \$30, Student \$20

For more information, go to: www.Monmouthcivicchorus.org

Or call: 732-933-9333

Save these Dates: Saturday, April 8th at 4:00 p.m. – Easter Egg Hunt in the church parking lot. All children and grandchildren are invited.

Sunday, April 16, 2023 - Diaper Packing Event to support The Maker's Place.

GREATER FREEHOLD LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES		
Lunch at 12 PM, Prayer at 12:30 PM, Lunch at 1 PM		
March 1	Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Lunch will be provided	Rev. Alan Olson First Presbyterian Church
March 8	First United Methodist Lunch will be provided	Msgr. Sam Siriani Co-Cathedral of St. Robert
March 15	Reformed Church of Freehold Lunch will be provided	Rev. Ronald Sparks Bethel A.M.E. Church
March 22	Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Lunch will be provided	Bishop Fred Rubin Community Refuge Church of Christ
March 29	First Assembly of God Lunch will be provided	Rev. Hosie Scott Foundational Truth Bible Study Ministries
Good Friday April 7	First Baptist Church 12:30 PM Service Lunch will not be provided	Rev. Matthew Jones First Assembly of God