

## Worship Service on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 10:15 AM

### Welcome

**Prelude**        “Impromptu” *I. V. Flagler*  
                  “*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*” *Richard Elliott*

**Greeting**        God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

**Question of the Day** When is the “Souper Bowl”?

### \*Call to Worship

Come, all who are poor in spirit; come all who mourn;  
come, all who are meek; come all who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

**Come, all who would be merciful;  
come, all who would be pure in heart;  
come, all who would be peacemakers.**

Let us come together – the weak, the simple, the powerless, the foolish.

**Let us confess that the source of our life is Christ Jesus.  
Let us worship the God of every blessing.**

\*Hymn #2172 *FWS* “We Are Called”

### \*Prayer of Invocation

**Wise and holy God, we honor and adore you. We come humbly, claiming the cross of Jesus Christ as our sign. We give thanks that you lift up the weak and lowly, defy the world’s foolishness, and invite us to share in life at its fullest and best as disciples of Jesus. May your Spirit guide us today. Amen.**

### **Micah 6:1-8 *New Revised Standard Version***

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

### **Matthew 5:1-12 *New Revised Standard Version***

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

### **I Corinthians 1:18-31 *New Revised Standard Version***

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**Response:** *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

**Hymn #2155 FWS** “Blest Are They”

### **Time of Prayer**

**How Is It With Your Soul?**

**Call to Confession**

Let us make our confession to God.

**Prayer of Confession**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the realm of heaven.

**Forgive us our spiritual arrogance.**

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

**Forgive us our false independence.**

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

**Forgive us our misplaced aggression.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they shall be satisfied.

**Forgive us our gluttony.**

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

**Forgive us our half-hearted commitment.**

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

**Forgive us for waging war.**

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the realm of heaven.

**Forgive us for not taking a stand.**

*Time of Silent Prayer*

## **Assurance**

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are those who seek the face of God.

Blessed are those who ask for forgiveness, for they shall be forgiven.

Blessed are those who repent, for they shall be freed to live fully. With Jesus we pray:

### **The 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.**

**Answer to the Question of the Day** When is the "Souper Bowl"?

**Time of Offering** *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

### **\*Offering Prayer**

**We thank you, God, that you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world. May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation. Amen.**

**\*Song of Offering #94 UMH** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Message** "Boast in the Lord" Rev. Joyce Rich

### **\*Commission and Blessing**

In the spirit of the beatitudes, commit to leading a life of blessing, living in compassion, simplicity, and peace. And the blessing of God – the Creator, Healer, and Giver of Life – bless you and keep you always. Amen. **And Amen.**

**\*Hymn #163 UMH** "Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know"

## **Announcements**

**Read For Next Week:** Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

**Postlude** "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?" *Arranged by Thomas Arne*

Liturgical resources drawn from: *Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A*, Lavon Bayler © 1998 United Church Press; *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*; *Liturgies for Year A, Volume I*, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press; and *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi © 1990 Pilgrim Press.