

## **Fourth Week of Lent Worship Service    10:15 AM Sunday, March 10, 2024**

**Quiet Time Prayer** #360 *UMH* “Freedom in Christ”

**Welcome**

**Prelude** “Prayer” *Frank W. Asper*  
“Ah, Dearest Jesus” *Austin Lovelace*

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

**Question of the Day** Faith that can move:  
A) molehills   B) mudflaps   C) mongooses   D) mountains

**\*Hymn** #160 *UMH* “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

**\*Call to Worship**

Let those whom God has redeemed rejoice!

**Let us tell the world of God’s good news!**

We thank God for wonderful works.

**We rejoice in God’s manifold blessings.**

Our voices will join in songs of joy.

**Our lives will offer faithful sacrifices of thanksgiving.**

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

**In trust and confidence, we call on your name, almighty God, eager to know you more fully and serve you more faithfully. By your Spirit we seek your Word for us. Amen.**

**Mark 11:20—12:12** *New Revised Standard Version*

In the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. Then Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you. So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”

Again they came to Jerusalem. As he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him and said, “By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority to do them?” Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin? Answer me.” They argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But shall we say, ‘Of human origin?’” – they were afraid of the crowd, for all regarded John as truly a prophet. So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

Then he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower, then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others;

some they beat, and others they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this scripture:

*‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?”*

When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

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

**\*Hymn #184 UMH** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

### **Time of Prayer**

#### **How Is It With Your Soul?**

#### **Call to Confession**

In this season, when we examine our lives and find our faith tested, we often discover a barrenness within. Our relationship with God is weak, not because God has turned away, but because we have failed to trust the Almighty or spend time in prayer. Let us be honest with our Creator in this time of prayer.

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**God of our ancestors, we come to you, confessing that we have set our minds on human things. We have sought to gain the world – so many things to buy, so many things to do. Yet we are not satisfied. Life’s meaning eludes us. Yet we sense that there is a way of life with you that is more satisfying. O God, we confess our need for you. Time of Silent Prayer**

#### **Assurance**

God offers us the opportunity to live in harmony and wholeness. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

#### **Thanks be to God!**

And 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**

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

#### **Offering Prayer**

**Glorious God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our faith. You alone know how much we share and how much we withhold. You know the extent of our trust and the depth of our commitment. May this act of giving draw us closer to you and extend a blessing to all who are helped through our sharing. Amen.**

**Song of Offering #587 UMH** “Bless Thou the Gifts”

**Sermon** “Have Faith in God” Rev. Joyce Rich

**\*Hymn #438 UMH** “Forth in Thy Name, O Lord”

**\*Commission and Blessing**

Disciples, we are called to renewed faithfulness.

The way before us will not be easy.

**We will not let the work of Christ be put to shame.**

God is our help and our deliverer.

**God's saving grace goes with us today and always.**

Amen. **And Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Postlude** "Wondrous Love" *John Carter*

**Read for Next Week:** Mark 12:13-44

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship**, edited by Ruth C. Duck, Maren C. Tirabassi © 1990 The Pilgrim Press; and **Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B**, Lavon Baylor © 1996 United Church Press.*