

Banning United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

MINISTRY MOMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

Cathy Mauge

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Denise Cosgrove

L: God loves us with a steadfast love.

P: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

L: God loves us so much that he gave us His Son.

P: Let us believe and have eternal life!

L: God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.

P: Let us have faith to receive this grace!

L: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good. **Amen.**

†OPENING PRAYER

Denise Cosgrove

Great Triune God, we have gathered here in Your Name as an act of faith, believing that You are not only among us, but that You love us. It is often hard to recognize Your love, see Your mercy, and feel Your presence. Help us today in our worship, that we might be transparent to Your grace, as You reveal Yourself to each one of us. Amen.

†OPENING HYMN

“How Great Thou Art”

UMH #77

PSALM READING

Denise Cosgrove

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22 NRSV

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. ²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble ³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ¹⁷Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; ¹⁸they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. ¹⁹Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; ²⁰he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. ²¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. ²²And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

†NEW TESTAMENT READING

Pastor Doug

John 3:14-21 NRSV

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 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. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already,

because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Gaze Upon the Light”

Pastor Doug

PRAYERS

Pastor Doug

Children in Prayer (After each slide: In Your mercy, **Lord, hear our prayer**)

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

†**DOXOLOGY**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Denise Cosgrove

God of unwavering love, You have held nothing back in Your love for us, not even your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to You. As we dedicate our offerings to You, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance You have called us to be. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

†**CLOSING HYMN**

“Because He Lives”

UMH #364

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†**BENEDICTION**

Pastor Doug

POSTLUDE