

Banning United Methodist Church

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 2025

GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

Cathy Mauge

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

Myrle Petty

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Myrle Petty

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

Cathy Mauge

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Myrle Petty

L: Days pour forth speech, and night declares knowledge.

P: What voices speak without words or speech?

L: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

P: We listen but do not understand.

L: The Law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.

P: Who will teach us that our hearts may rejoice?

L: Pray in the Spirit, and you will perceive. **Amen.**

†OPENING HYMN

“Morning Has Broken”

UMH #145

†OPENING PRAYER

Myrle Petty

God of Wisdom, we have come to sit at Jesus’ feet and learn what He has to teach us. With the heavens above and the earth below, we rejoice in the *good news*: He brings succor to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. Reveal the mystery of your precepts, that we might hear the music of the heavens, the whisper of the land, the roar of the seas, the prayer of the caterpillar, and the song of the flea. Speak to us through the fulness of creation, we pray. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Myrle Petty

Nehemiah 8:1-10 NRSV

all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁴The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁷Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the

words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Pastor Doug

Luke 4:14-21 NRSV

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Seeing with New Eyes"

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

Myrle Petty

MASON JAR MINISTRY

OFFERTORY

Cathy Mauge

†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

Myrle Petty

God of our ancestors, Caretaker of our future, thank You for Your faithful love. May the gifts we bring before You this day honor the many ways You bless this church. May our offering reflect our commitment to live lives of love as we continue Jesus' mission to bring the poor, release the captives, give sight to the blind, and free the oppressed. In Your Holy Name, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

†CLOSING HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

UMH #593

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†BENEDICTION

Pastor Doug

In one Spirit, we perceive the glory of God proclaimed in the heaven above.

Spirit, make us one.

In one faith, we have been nurtured through the precepts of the living Lord.

Christ, make us one.

Go with the blessings of God, that all might be one.