Banning United Methodist Church

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 12, 2023

GATHERING MUSIC Cathy Mauge

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT Kathy Bainter

Surely God yearns, as any loving parent would, that we choose wisely. In this and in every moment, let us bring joy to God's heart by choosing compassion for ourselves, our neighbors, and all of God's creation.

PRELUDE Cathy Mauge

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

Kathy Bainter

We ask that you please sign the attendance book, then pass it to the middle aisle. If you are here this morning as a guest, please include your address and phone number, so that we can reach out to you and extend our welcome.

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

MINISTRY MOMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy Bainter

†CALL TO WORSHIP Kathy Bainter

- L: Are you awake? Are you alert?
- P: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.
- L: Are you watching the signs?

Are you interpreting what is happening today?

- P: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.
- L: Do you see opportunities for ministry?

Do you see the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the needy?

- P: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.
- L: Come, let us worship and let us work in the reign of God.
- P: Christ has extended the invitation: let us work together in the reign of God on earth.

†OPENING HYMN

"Thy Word Is a Lamp"

Hymn #61

OPENING PRAYER Kathy Bainter

Discerning God, help me consider this day how I live my life and how I choose the direction I take. Discriminating God, help me understand how crucial are the words I speak to others as I seek relationships in my life.

Do I make my plans according to ordinary human standards, ready to say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time? Disturbing God, help me find clarity in my relationship with you, with others, and maybe especially with myself. Let my word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No': anything more than this comes from the evil one. Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING Kathy Bainter

Matthew 5:21-37 NRSV

²¹"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the

guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. ²⁷"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. ³¹"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. ³³"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON TITLE "Spiritual Stretch Goals"

Pastor Doug

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR and PEOPLE

Pastor Doug

Children in Prayer

(After all slides: In Your mercy, **Lord**, **hear our prayer**)

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

UMCOR

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.

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

Kathy Bainter

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

Kathy Bainter

Hymn #468

Holy God, as we offer to You gifts from the abundance You have provided us, we recognize that the offering that concerns You is more than what is in our wallets and purses, but in our hearts. You desire from us hearts that are a fit place for You to live and dwell. Help us to clear out long-held anger, resentments, pride, and hate. Help us to furnish our hearts with love, mercy, justice, compassion, and forgiveness so they might be a place where You feel welcome and at home. Help us present this offering as well. In Jesus, we pray. Amen.

†CLOSING HYMN "Dear Jesus, in Whose Life I See"

†BENEDICTION Pastor Doug

POSTLUDE Cathy Mauge