

# 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

<sup>21</sup>"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' <sup>22</sup>But 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. <sup>23</sup>So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come 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

