

Banning United Methodist Church

Laity Sunday
October 15, 2023

GATHERING MUSIC

Maxine Hoth

CENTERING WORDS

Myrle Petty

The word for today is *presence*: God's abiding and constant *presence* — not a random, "force-like" presence that just is. This is an intimate presence, a personal presence, a presence that knows your name.

PRELUDE

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

Maxine Hoth

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

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.

If this is your first time visiting and would like to introduce yourself, please raise your hand, and a microphone will be brought to you.

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

MINISTRY MOMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Myrle Petty

†CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 106:1-2; 19-23; 47-48

Phillip Brown

L: Praise the Lord!

P: O Give thanks to the Lord, Who is good, Whose steadfast love endures for ever!

L: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or show forth all God's praise?

P: Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!.

L: Remember me, O Lord, when You show favor to Your people, help me when You deliver them,

P: That I may see the prosperity of Your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, that I may glory with Your heritage.

L: Both we and our forebears have sinned, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.

P: Our forebears, when they were in Egypt, did not consider Your wonderful works;

L: They did not remember the abundance of Your steadfast love, but rebelled against the Most High at the Red Sea.

P: God saved them for the sake of His *Holy Name*, to make known the mighty

power of God.

L: God rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry; and led them through the deep as though a desert.

P: So God saved them from the hand of the foe, and delivered them from the hand of the enemy.

L: And the waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left.

P: Then they believed God's words; they sang God's praise.

L: They made a calf in Horeb and worshiped a molten image.

P: They exchanged the *glory* of God for an image of an ox that eats grass.

L: They forgot God, their Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt,

P: wondrous works in the land of Ham and terrible things by the Red Sea.

L: Therefore the Lord intended to destroy them had not Moses, His chosen one, stood in the breach, to turn away God's wrath from destroying them.

P: Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to Your *Holy Name* and *glory* in Your praise.

L: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

P: And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the Lord!

†**OPENING HYMN**

"Creator of the Earth and Skies"

UMH #450

OPENING PRAYER

Diane Doser

Holy God, we come before You this day with praise on our lips and songs of joy in our hearts. When we abide in Your Kingdom and live according to Your ways, good triumphs over evil, love is stronger than hate, and truth wins the day. Focus our hearts and minds on things that are worthy of praise, and bless us with a peace that passes all understanding. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Elaine Majors

Exodus 32: 1-14 NRSV

¹When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ²Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." ⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from

the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" ⁹The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." ¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

SOLO "I Searched the World" by Flo Price

Myrle Petty

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Susan Noviello

Matthew 22:1-14 NRSV

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

†**HYMN OF PREPARATION** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

UMH #140

FAITH TALK

Marilyn Casey

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

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)

Myrle Petty

OFFERTORY "Jesus, I Come"

Maxine Hoth

†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

Diane Doser

Gracious God, use these offerings and all that we have for the building up of Your work in this church and the wider world, for Your glory. Amen.

†CLOSING HYMN "Jesus Calls Us"

UMH #398

†BENEDICTION

Dan Mabey

POSTLUDE

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Maxine Hoth