

Banning United Methodist Church

Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

May 14, 2023

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

God is the creator of all, not just those who claim to be the people of God. God calls and welcomes all of humanity into community. We, who claim our love for Christ, are invited to extend extravagant welcome in both word and action to all of God's children everywhere.

PRELUDE

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY MOMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

†CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Transforming God, You have taken the world's darkness and re-created a world filled with the joy of light and hope.

P: Come and hear the *good news* of God's love for all creation.

L: Restoring God, You have turned defeat into sudden victory, and re-created a world filled with the joy of peace and shalom.

P: Come and hear the *good news* of God's awesome powers.

L: Renewing God, we respond to Your mighty deeds with songs of praise, worship, and thankful prayers. You alone are God!

P: Come and hear the *good news* of God's blessings on us all. Glory and honor, power and dominion belong to God alone. Amen.

†OPENING HYMN

"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought" vs. 1, 3 & 4

UMH #128

OPENING PRAYER

Holy and gracious God, At times we feel so frail and fragile, getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news, by our own short tempers and failings. You call us to hold fast to what is good, but so often, we flounder, unable to find that solid thing that will center us again. Help us; we pray. Help us to see You as our center and to cling to the good that You create in the world. Help us to set aside all our jealousies and prejudices, all of our betrayals and lies, all that adds to the world's hurt. Help us to grow even more into Christ's likeness so that we will bear His love and truth to the world. We pray in His Name. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 66:8-20 NRSV

⁸Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, ⁹who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip. ¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. ¹¹You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; ¹²you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place. ¹³I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows, ¹⁴those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. ¹⁵I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah ¹⁶Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. ¹⁷I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue. ¹⁸If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. ¹⁹But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. ²⁰Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

†HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"

UMH #369

NEW TESTAMENT READING John 14:15-21 NRSV

¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"He Is With Us"

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR and PEOPLE

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)

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**

Holy God and author of our existence, our story is part of a greater story, and Your hand is visible on every page and every scene. So too, our stories cannot be disconnected from those in the past who have shaped the steps we take – saints and sinners, rebels, and followers. They are part of our story as we are part of theirs. As we offer gifts this day, we pray they might be used to strengthen the story of faith that will be told by those who will come after we are gone. We pray this in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

†**CLOSING HYMN** "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

†**BENEDICTION**