

Banning United Methodist Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

Christ, the living stone and cornerstone of our faith, is building us into spiritual houses and a holy priesthood. Let us open ourselves to the master builder.

PRELUDE

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY MOMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

†CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord is our refuge.

P: We can find peace in God's abiding love.

L: When troubles assail us, we call upon the Lord.

P: When joys abound, we call upon the Lord.

L: Welcome this day to God's house, one of many dwellings of the Almighty One.

P: We thank You and praise God for His refuge and sanctuary. AMEN.

†OPENING HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" vs. 1, 2, & 4 UMH #110

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, our refuge, and our strength, train our hearts on the words of Your Son: "Do not let our hearts be troubled. Believe in God also believe in Me." Feed our souls with Your spiritual milk, and build our lives into spiritual houses that neither famine nor storm can shake the foundation of our faith. In the name of the master builder and the living stone, we pray. Amen!

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 NRSV

¹In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

²Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

³You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

⁴take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

⁵Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

¹⁵My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Peter 2:2-10 NRSV

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They

stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "Living Hope"

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

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**

Redeeming God, the gifts we bring to You this day, we dedicate to the work of kingdom building.

Even more, we offer ourselves as material for this work. Imperfect as we are, we know with

Christ as the cornerstone, you can build your vision of mercy, justice, peace, and compassion here in our midst. In Christ, our rock and redeemer. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II

COMMUNION HYMN "Let us Break Bread Together"

Hymn #618

†**CLOSING HYMN** "A Charge to Keep I Have" vs. 1, 3, & 4

UMH #413

†**BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE