

Banning United Methodist Church

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024

GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

MINISTRY MOMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Dan Mabey

L: Listen to the stars.

P: They tell God's glory!

L: They have no words.

P: Yet in their beauty, God speaks.

L: Listen to creation.

P: They sing God's song of peace.

†OPENING PRAYER

Dan Mabey

Creator God, You call us from our busy lives, To find knowledge and rest in this holy place. Center our spirits in Your love. Open our hearts to Your transforming word, for we are ready to realign our spirits, remember Your words, and walk in Your paths. Guide us in wisdom and truth as we seek to follow Your word. Amen.

†OPENING HYMN

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

UMH #185

PSALM READING

Dan Mabey

Psalm 19:1-9 NRSV

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. ⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

†NEW TESTAMENT READING

Pastor Doug

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 NRSV

¹For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to

Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Symbols" Pastor Doug

PRAYERS Pastor Doug

Children in Prayer (After each slide: In Your mercy, **Lord, hear our prayer**)

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Dan Mabey

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** Dan Mabey

Holy One, You shape our lives with great beauty, Showing us paths that lead to righteousness and blessings. We bring these gifts with grateful hearts, that You may use them to build Your community of justice and righteousness. We offer You our very lives, Knowing that You will lead us in the path of holy service. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II Hymnal Page 12

COMMUNION HYMN "Let us Break Bread Together" Hymn #618

SENDING FORTH

†**CLOSING HYMN** "Let There Be Peace on Earth" UMH #431

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING Pastor Doug

POSTLUDE