

# Banning United Methodist Church

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 21, 2024

## GATHERING MUSIC

### MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

Denise Cosgrove

*Open the eyes and ears of my heart, creative Spirit, to listen for Your word of truth. Amen.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

## WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

## MINISTRY MOMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

Denise Cosgrove

L: Gathered in worship with silence and sound,

**P: We wait upon God's Grace.**

L: Gathered in worship with focused hearts and minds,

**P: We anticipate the time we face. Amen.**

### †OPENING HYMN

"Rock of Ages Cleft for Me"

UMH #361

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling; naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

### OPENING PRAYER

Denise Cosgrove

**God of unifying Grace, we come to You distracted by the world. Our minds wander, and we are filled with thoughts other than You. Our hearts are confused, and we are uncertain where we belong. Call us to You once more. Redeem the night and bless the day that greets the morning. May Your relentless ways never fail as we strive to live as Your beloved people. Amen.**

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Denise Cosgrove

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 NRSV

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

<sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. <sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

Pastor Doug

Mark 1:14-20 NRSV

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." <sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left

their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SUNDAY ENSEMBLE** "Change My Heart, O God"

**SERMON** "Following God's Directions" Pastor Doug

**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)** Denise Cosgrove

**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** Denise Cosgrove  
**Restorer of the divided hearts, bless our gifts this morning. Make our gifts a path to holy living and action. May our very lives reflect the truth of our faith and our commitment to Your world. With generous hearts we pray. Amen.**

†**CLOSING HYMN** "Softly and tenderly, Jesus Is Calling" UMH #348  
1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; see, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.  
Refrain:  
Come home, come home; you who are weary come home; earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!  
2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]  
3. Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me; shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for me. [Refrain]  
4. O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

†**BENEDICTION** Pastor Doug

**POSTLUDE**