

Banning United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

Cathy Mauge

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

Marilyn Casey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marilyn Casey

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

Cathy Mauge

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marilyn Casey

L Come all ye faithful ...

P: to worship, praise, and pray.

L: Come all ye faithful ...

P: for God's love welcomes us home.

L: Come into the presence of Christ ...

P: for Christ's grace makes us new and whole.

HYMN SING (selection from the congregation)

†**OPENING PRAYER**

Marilyn Casey

God of past and present faithfulness, welcome us in Your love, as we worship You this day. Draw closer to us, that we might trust Your promises and follow Your ways. In hope and faith, we pray. Amen.

HYMN SING (selection from the congregation)

PSALM READING

Marilyn Casey

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Selah

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

Selah

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

HYMN SING (selection from the congregation)

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor Doug

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 NRSV

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

All: Thanks be to God.**HYMN SING** (selection from the congregation)**REFLECTIONS**

Pastor Doug

PRAYERS

Pastor Doug

CHILDREN IN PRAYER (After each slide: 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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Marilyn Casey

MASON JAR MINISTRY**OFFERTORY**

Cathy Mauge

†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

Marilyn Casey

With glad hearts, we offer these gifts to You, O God. Transform them, with the power of Your Holy Spirit, that these gifts may bring forth new life. May our offering transform others' lives into the new creation You promised all. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

HYMN SING (selection from the congregation)

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†BENEDICTION

L: Created anew in Christ,

P: we go to proclaim a new life to the world.

L: Transformed by God's love and grace,

P: we go to bring love and grace to all. Amen.

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD

Pastor Doug

POSTLUDE

Cathy Mauge