

Banning United Methodist Church

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

Marilyn Casey

Holy Spirit, when you lead us into the wilderness, assure us of your constant presence.

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

Marilyn Casey

We ask that you please sign the attendance book, then pass it to the middle aisle. If you are here this morning as a guest, please include your address and phone number, so that we can reach out to you and extend our welcome.

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

MINISTRY MOMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marilyn Casey

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Marilyn Casey

L: Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

P: We are learning to follow Jesus.

L: For those who feel Christ near,

P: May we not turn away from the discomfort of the journey ahead.

L: For those who feel as far from Christ as the desert is from the ocean,

P: May we find Christ in the wilderness with us.

L: For all of us who stumble and fall in our silence, indifference, and lack of generosity,

P: May we reach for the hand of Christ, who raises us up to continue on the journey.

L: Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

P: We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! Amen.

†OPENING HYMN

"Great is thy Faithfulness"

Hymn #377

OPENING PRAYER

Marilyn Casey

O God, You offer us so much, forgive us for sharing so little. You have called us to Your ways, forgive us for ignoring Your call. You have given us the gift of family, forgive us for not giving thanks. You have given us countless blessings, forgive us for taking Your love for granted. And now, gracious God, be merciful to us in our sin and indifference, through Christ, our Savior. Amen.

PSALTER READING

Marilyn Casey

Psalms 32 NRSV

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah ⁵Then 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 ⁶Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah ⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. ¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

†GOSPEL READING

Pastor Doug

Matthew 4:1-11 NRSV

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by

bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON TITLE “Knowing Who You Are” 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) Marilyn Casey

MASON JAR SUNDAY

SOLO Myrle Petty

†**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

Generous God, as we remember Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness, we acknowledge the temptation that pursues so many of us: to measure our worth, our power and our security by what we have. As we offer these gifts to You this morning, we pray that You might deliver us from the temptation of building our lives around what belongs to us. Continually leads us to the conviction that what matters is that we belong to You. We pray in the name of our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

†**CLOSING HYMN** “It Is Well with My Soul” Hymn #377

†**BENEDICTION** Pastor Doug