

Banning United Methodist Church
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023

GATHERING MUSIC

CENTERING WORDS

Denise Cosgrove

God's judgment comes in unexpected times and ways. Christ's mercy shows up through surprising people. When you are fed up and cry out for grace, keep awake, lest you fail to recognize it when it comes.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

MINISTRY MOMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Denise Cosgrove

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Denise Cosgrove

L: We lift our eyes to the Lord.

P: God created the heavens and the earth

L: We raise our voices in songs and speech

P: We raise our voices in prayer and praise.

L: Lord, hear our prayers, accept our praise.

P: Lord, open our hearts to receive Your blessings of peace. AMEN.

†OPENING HYMN

"If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"

UMH #142

1. If thou but suffer God to guide thee, and hope in God through all thy ways, God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, and bear thee through the evil days. Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that naught can move.

2. Only be still, and wait God's leisure in cheerful hope, with heart content to take whate'er thy Maker's pleasure and all-discerning love hath sent; we know our inmost wants are known, for we are called to be God's own.

3. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving; so do thine own part faithfully, and trust God's word; though undeserving, thou yet shalt find it true for thee. God never yet forsook at need the soul that trusted God indeed.

OPENING PRAYER

Denise Cosgrove

Awesome God, You created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with Your love. You called us from slavery into witness and service. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from You. Open our hearts and spirits and let Your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to Your power and love as we use the gifts with which You have blessed us in Your service. For we offer this prayer in the name of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

GOSPEL READING

Denise Cosgrove

Matthew 25:14-30 NRSV

¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who

had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Good and Faithful Church”

Rev. Dr. Lynn Reece

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

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

Denise Cosgrove

†**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

There are no limits to the gifts You have given us, gracious Lord. Now we return thanks to You for these gifts, and we bring these tokens to You, asking for Your blessing on givers and gifts. Help these gifts and givers to be Your witnesses throughout the world. AMEN.

†**CLOSING HYMN**

“A Charge to Keep I Have”

UMH #413

1. A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify, a never-dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky.

2. To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill; O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will!

3. Arm me with jealous care, as in thy sight to live, and oh, thy servant, Lord, prepare a strict account to give!

4. Help me to watch and pray, and on thyself rely, assured, if I my trust betray, I shall forever die.

†**BENEDICTION**

Pastor Doug

POSTLUDE