

Banning United Methodist Church

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

Dan Mabey

Look to the mountains and know this truth: God, our help, is stronger, larger, and mightier than the mightiest mountain. God's help is stronger than any trouble this world can throw our way.

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

Dan Mabey

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

Dan Mabey

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Dan Mabey

L: We come this day hoping to encounter Christ.

P: We come with burdens and questions that only He can answer.

L: May we open our hearts to Him.

P: May our lives be healed and strengthened for service. Amen.

†OPENING HYMN

"Where He Leads Me" vs. 1, 2, & 4

Hymn #338

OPENING PRAYER

Dan Mabey

Gracious and glorious Lord, we come, as did Nicodemus, with questions on our hearts and in our lives. We come hoping someone can help us find answers and healing. But we are also hardened with doubts about ourselves, others, and even You. Grant us healing and openness to Your spirit that we may be better servants of Your Word, Your Will, and Your Way. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Dan Mabey

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 NRSV

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,

¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

†GOSPEL READING

Pastor Doug

John 3:1-17 NRSV

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with

everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON TITLE “Leaving the Familiar” 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

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS) Dan Mabey

†**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
God of unwavering love, You have held nothing back in Your love for us, not even Your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion to You. As we dedicate our offerings to You, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance You have called us to be. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II Hymnal Page 12

COMMUNION HYMN
“Let us Break Bread Together” Hymn #618

†**CLOSING HYMN** “Be Thou My Vision” vs. 1 & 3 Hymn #451

†**BENEDICTION** Pastor Doug