

Banning United Methodist Church
First Sunday in Advent
December 03, 2023

CENTERING WORDS

Dan Mabey

God is the potter; we are the clay. May God fashion us into vessels of beauty and purpose this Advent season.

PRELUDE

Cathy Mauge

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. If this is your first time visiting and would like to introduce yourself, please raise your hand, and a microphone will be brought to you.

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

MINISTRY MOMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Mabey

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Myrle Petty & Marilyn Casey

Hope Candle

Reader 1: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come" (Mark 13:35).

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Dan Mabey

L: If only the heavens would tear open and God would come down!

P: The mountains would shake and tremble — all earth would stand in awe!

L: People have turned their backs on God, believing that they, under their own power, can right all wrongs.

P: We have failed miserably when we depend only on ourselves.

L: Be with us, O Lord. Tear open our hearts and pour Your love into our lives.

P: Give us confidence in You, for You are always with us. AMEN.

†OPENING HYMN

"All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded"

UMH #132

OPENING PRAYER

Dan Mabey

God of love and mercy, we thank You for Your loving presence in our lives. You have formed us in Your image, and You continue to transform us as we grow in faith. Break through the darkness in our lives and let the light of Your love flood in, so that we may become more productive disciples of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Dan Mabey

Isaiah 64:1-9 NRSV

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

GOSPEL READING

Pastor Doug

Mark 13:24-37 NRSV

²⁴“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SUNDAY ENSEMBLE

SERMON

“Shock and Awe!”

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

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

Dan Mabey

Bless these gifts, O Lord, and help them to bring the transforming love you have given us into ministries of hope and peace in this dark world. 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

“Let There Be Peace On Earth”

UMH #431

†BENEDICTION

Pastor Doug

POSTLUDE