

Sunday, March 14, 2021

www.gilbertcommunityumc.org

“Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.”

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

March is Food Shelf month...so please be willing to donate food or monies to the Quad City Food Shelf.

The state of Minnesota will match dollar for dollar and pound for pound all that is donated in the month of March. The Quad City Food Shelf can purchase more with each dollar, than we can at our local grocery store. All food and monies will be kept local. Give monies to DeEtta and food may be put on the back pew.

We will be having a Good Friday service at the church on April 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Easter will be Sunday, April 4th and we would love to have a beautiful and colorful Easter garden up on the altar. Please consider buying a colorful plant for the altar and you can have it back after the Easter service. If you would like the plant in honor or memory of someone, let DeEtta know and she will put it in the bulletin. Please no Easter lilies as some members have allergies.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is good.

People: **All the time.**

Leader: And all the time,

People: **God is good.**

Leader: Let all God's people cry out in joy:

People: **God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: Come! Let us worship the Lord of our salvation.

OPENING HYMN: Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy 340

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, so often we have missed your presence because we are looking for you clothed in a particular way. Let this time of worship be an encounter with you that will enable us to behold you in all the people we meet and all the situations we greet. You are from everlasting to everlasting, so we are confident that you are here; help us to be aware of your holy presence. O Lord, enrich this act of worship with the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are tired of our own grumbling. Though we run around like errant children, we long to return to your warm embrace. Though we act as if the odds are stacked against us, we yearn to rest in the knowledge that your steadfast love endures forever. Though we crouch in the shadows, we long to feel the warmth of your love shining upon us each day. Lead us from death into life that we might live as children of light, and serve one another as heirs of your son, in whose name we pray. AMEN

PSALM READING: Psalm 107 (read responsively – page 830 UMH)

HYMN: Just as I Am, Without One Plea 357

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Carter Fish's Birthday is today

Silent prayers...

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 and ever. AMEN

HYMN: Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us 381

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Numbers 21:4-9

EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 2:1-10

GOSPEL LESSON: John 3:14-21

MESSAGE Pastor Mary Lou

HYMN: Amazing Grace

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RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS/MUSIC

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, Ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN

Please leave your offering in the plate on the stand as you enter or leave the sanctuary.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Great and generous God, our lives are surrounded by things that steal our lives, inflict and destroy us. The tithes and offering we share with you this day are a way of keeping us focused not on the things that would take life away but will renew our lives: hope, love, compassion, empathy. As the Israelites looked to a serpent on a pole for healing, we look to a Savior on a cross to be brought back to life. In that holy name, Jesus the Messiah, we pray. AMEN

BENEDICTION

HYMN: More Like You

POSTLUDE