**unday, March 17, 2024**

[**www.gilbertcommunityumc.org**](http://www.gilbertcommunityumc.org)

**“Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.”**

\*Please stand if able…

PRELUDE

**ANNOUNCEMENTs**

Lenten travelers, how long have you traveled this road with your gaze pointed down at the dust and gravel and asphalt as you walk or limp or roll down the path?**Sometimes it is easier to look at the road than at the people who share the journey with us** Lift up your heads! Look, listen, reach out a hand. Who are your neighbors on this road?

**We lift our heads and look to our Savior who journeys with us and helps us notice our neighbors all around us**This is the Lenten journey – to learn to love God and love our neighbors just as Jesus showed us.

**People: Our journey teaches us to lose our lives to God as we find and follow Christ in our service to others.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God who caravans

With us on this road to the cross.

**People: Come, let us worship! AMEN**

**LITUR**March 17th Norma Purkat

March 24th John Malevich

March 31st DeEtta Annala

**USHERS SCHEDULE**

March 17th Deborah Ross-Jaguncih

March 24th Don Peterson

March 31st Tom and Deanna Hafdahl

March 11th-17th Kern

March 18th-24th Peterson

March 25th-31st John and Norma Z. 24th31:9-16 (UMH 764)Isaiah 50:4-9Philippians 2:5-11Good Friday Service will be on Friday, March 29th at 4:00 p.m. This is a very special service – please join us.

Maundy Thursday Service will be held at the Trinity UMC in Hoyt Lakes at 5:00 p.m. Our church is welcome to join them in this service.

As you will notice on the schedule page, we are back to using Ushers again… So we will be passing the offering plate again during the service.

March is Quad City Food Shelf Month… The time of year when all donations are matched. The weight of all food items donated is doubled. Likewise, cash gifts are also doubled. Food shelf organizations have access to sources and suppliers at much reduced rates, purchasing groceries at up to seven times the buying power of a normal grocery store.

We are looking for anyone willing to provide flowers/plants for our Easter Garden on our altar for Easter Sunday, March 31st. The flower/plants can be brought to the church after the Good Friday Service. Please no Easter lilies because many have issues with their strong odor.

*Breathe On Me, Breathe of God*

420 **Lord, we know Easter is coming soon and while we anxiously wait to celebrate your triumphant victory over sin and death, there are still difficult days between now and then. And try as we might, we cannot comprehend love and mercy so great as this. There is nothing perfect about us, yet you beckon us with hands that soon will be scarred by betrayal, greed, selfishness, pettiness, pride and apathy. You see us and our imperfections with compassionate and patient eyes as we struggle to rid our lives of all the worldly things that distort, distract, and entangle us. As the cross looms ahead, our eyes and our focus are on you and you alone for our redemption and salvation. Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives and we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy. In Jesus’ Name, we pray.**

**AMEN**

PSALM READING: Psalm 51:1-12 785

\*HYMN: *Blessed Assurance*  369

CHILDREN’S TIME

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Time of Silent Prayers**

**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 and ever. AMEN**

\*HYMN:  *Hymn of Promise*  707

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34

EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 5:5-10

GOSPEL LESSON: John 12:20-33

MESSAGE Pastor MaryLou

\*HYMN *O Jesus, I Have Promised*  396

**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**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of the ages, we share our tithes and offerings this day with, but we acknowledge that most of the time, we are clinging tightly to what we have, afraid we might lose something we need and afraid somehow there won’t be enough to live our lives. The scarcity mindset overtakes us, and it robs us of the joy of our days. Remind us that Jesus has called us to be ready to let go of this life so that we might claim the abundance of life eternal. In our redeemer’s name, we pray. AMEN**

BENEDICTION

**\***HYMN: *More Like You*  Insert

POSTLUDE