

Prelude

Welcome

Musical Call to Worship

*Be Thou My Vision*

Opening Litany

Worship Leader: Julianne van Meerten

One: We gather for worship to be nourished by the Word of God.

**All: We seek the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit.**

One: We come to be challenged by the commandments.

**All: We seek the guidance of God, our Creator.**

One: We come to be surprised by Jesus, our Savior.

**All: We want our lives to be shaped by his grace.**

\*Hymn

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

UMH #127

Children's Story Time

*(Children, ages 3-5, may leave for Sunday School after this.)*

Prayer for Illumination

**Speak to us now, O God. Open our hearts and minds to understand and to follow what you are saying to us in the message of the Scriptures.**

**May your Word and your Spirit shape our lives all along this Lenten journey and for all our days. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Ex. 20:1-17 O.T. p. 66

John 2:13-22 N.T. p.93

For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,  
for the word of God within us. **Thanks be to God.**

\*Hymn

*Wild and Lone the Prophets Voice*

TFWS #2089

Sermon

Pastor Michelle Mejia

Confession and Pardon

So much of our lives is focused on outward appearances.  
It is right that we take a detour to examine our inward life,  
to be honest with God, with ourselves, and with one another  
about where we have fallen short and where we need to begin again.  
So we confess our sins, first in silence, and then aloud.

**All: God of all our lives,**

**we confess that we have gotten caught up in the "good life tangle."  
We have chased lives that are long, healthy, and above all happy,  
and we have forgotten that you call us to lives of sacrifice and service.**

**We have let our lives be shaped by human things:**

**we long for security from our possessions;**

**we prefer our own comfort.**

**We haven't loved you fully.**

**We haven't loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**This Lent, take our palm branches and our lives,**

**that we may learn to lay them down in your service,**

**following your way even when we cannot understand.**

**This we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

One: Where can we go for forgiveness but to God?

And when we struggle to seek good, God points us to Jesus, our Brother,  
of Jesus Christ, praise God! You are forgiven. our Savior, who shows us  
how to follow him to life worth living.

So beloved people of God, hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.

That proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, praise God! You are forgiven.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, praise God! You are forgiven.**

Communion

Invitation to Holy Communion

TFWS p .2257 a - d

Lord's Prayer

UMH #895

Holy Communion *All are welcome to come forward to receive*

*the sacrament. Gluten free options are available.*

Music Ministry

*Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled*

by Elaine Schram

Aldersgate Choir

Offering and Answering God's Call

Your financial giving supports many wonderful ministries and partnerships.  
Please prayerfully consider your giving to UUMC. Place your gifts in the front  
basket, the box in the back of the sanctuary, or make a gift electronically  
at [www.uumcp.org/electronic-giving](http://www.uumcp.org/electronic-giving), or texting an amount to: 301-364-9236

\*Doxology *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* v.5 UMH #269

Opportunities to Serve

\*Closing Hymn *I Love thy Kingdom, Lord* UMH #540

\*Benediction

Postlude

**MD Food Pantry** Please donate feminine hygiene products and paprika for the month of March.

**Just Neighbors** Just Neighbors provides high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, asylees and refugees in Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia. On Thursday evening, March 7, from 5:30 - 8:30, UUMC will host one of their clinics, when lawyers meet clients. To operate smoothly, English speaking volunteers as well as Spanish speakers are needed. Would you be able to help? If so, contact the church office or sign up on the link in the weekly emails.

**For Your Calendar:**

- Mar. 6 Prayer Call; noon
- Mar. 7 Just Neighbors 5:30-8:30; Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- Mar. 17 Loaves and Fishes; Start bringing in items for Rummage Sale (Apr.19,20)
- Mar. 24. Palm Sunday; Choir cantata
- Mar. 29 Good Friday service, 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 31 Easter; Egg hunt following worship
- Apr. 7 Potluck

**University United Methodist Church**

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Dana Scott, Pianist/Organist: [dananscott@gmail.com](mailto:dananscott@gmail.com)



UNIVERSITY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

March 3, 2024

*Who do we answer to?*



By Henri Matisse