



**First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2018 10:30 a.m.**

**Epworth United Methodist Church
3207 37th Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55406
612-722-0232
epworthumcmplsmn@gmail.com**

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND LIFE

(Please use this time for preparing your mind, body and soul for worship)

CALL TO WORSHIP

~Ministry Matters

We are gathered to worship our God.

Send your Spirit upon us.

We come from many places, with many burdens.

Send your Spirit upon us.

We turn our hearts to you, O God.

Send your Spirit upon us, and make us your beloved family.

*OPENING HYMN

"Holy Ground"

#2272 FWS

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

~Worship@North

O God, as the scriptures are read and the music is sung, plunge us into the depths of your mercy and lift us to the heights of your grace, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Guide. AMEN.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 25:1-10

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 9:8-17; Mark 1:9-15

CHORAL ANTHEM

"I Have a Dream"

CHILDREN'S HYMN

"Give Me Jesus" (vs 1)

#3140 W&S

CHILDREN'S TIME

Good News out of the Bag

Scott Evenson

SERMON

Satan and Angels and Beast – OH MY!

Scott Evenson

TIME OF REFLECTION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Take Time to Be Holy"

#395 UMH

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God 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. Amen

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ, calls us by grace

**to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one in divine love for the world.**

Today is the day

God cares for the integrity of creation,
wills the healing and wholeness of all life,
weeps at the plunder of the earth's goodness.

And so shall we.

Today is the day

God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in the diversity and difference,
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

And so shall we.

Today is the day

God cries with the masses of starving people,
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

And so shall we.

Today is the day

God deplores violence in our homes and streets,
rebukes the worlds warring madness,
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

And so shall we.

Today is the day

God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

And so shall we.

Today is the day

**God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind, and
sets the oppressed free.**

And so shall we.

WE TAKE GOD'S WORD WITH US INTO THE WORLD

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

Scott Evenson

*CLOSING HYMN

"Spirit Song"

#347 UMH

*BENEDICTION

~Ministry Matters

We have received the Spirit.

We are blessed by God.

Believe the gospel.

Proclaim the good news. AMEN.

*POSTLUDE

We welcome you as children of God.

We hope in this place you will experience God's love and grace.

- * Indicates you are to stand as you are able in praise of God.
- There is also nursery care **for children under 5**.
- **There are large print hymnals available on the table in the Narthex (ask an usher).**
- The United States flag in our Sanctuary is in honor of those in our congregation who are serving or have served our country. It is also our prayer that our country continually strives to be a just and humane presence in our world. The flag reminds us to do all in our power to insure the rights of all persons.
- Our beginning ritual symbolizes the light of Christ, the flames of the Holy Spirit and the baptismal water signifying the unconditional love of God.