



**Third Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday
March 4, 2018 -- 10:30 a.m.**

**Epworth United Methodist Church
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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

When we lack sunshine and a breath of fresh air,

God opens the window!

When we knock, needing to enter,

God opens the door!

When we are desperate for healing and forgiveness,

God tears off the roof! AMEN.

*OPENING HYMN

"Lord of the Dance" (vs 1,3,5)

#261 UMH

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

Psalm 19

Vineyard Classics

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 19

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:18-25, Mark 2:1-12

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Life Giving Bread"

CHILDREN'S HYMN

"O Lord, You're Beautiful" (vs 2)

#2064 FWS

CHILDREN'S TIME

Welcome the Surprise

SERMON

Jesus Welcomes One More

TIME OF REFLECTION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Freely, Freely"

#389 UMH

INVITATION

~www.umcdiscipleship.org

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God.

CONFESSION

~RevGalBlogPals'

**O God, You who are always doing a new thing,
we confess that we sometimes close windows
against the fresh air of new ideas,
against the noise of other people's worries,
against the winds of change.
God of every place and time,
we confess that we often draw the curtains
against people who are different,
against world news or community concerns.
Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes,
our sheltered churches,
the security systems on our hearts.
Open up our lives and let your Spirit blow through. AMEN.**

ASSURANCE

~Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources

God's own glory is confirmed
in saying "Yes!" to our cry for mercy and healing.
In Jesus Christ, **God forgives our sins
and chooses not to remember our wrong doing.**
Sisters and Brothers, **our sins are forgiven;** be at peace.

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**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*Everyone is welcome at the communion table in the United Methodist Church,
whether you are a member of this church or any church. Juice is used in the cup.
Please follow the directions for communion as given by the worship leader. †*

WE TAKE GOD'S WORD WITH US INTO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN

"The Servant Song" (vs 1,3,4)

#2222 FWS

*BENEDICTION

~Jane V. Doull, United Church Publishing House

May the blessing of God give us strength for the journey.

May the Spirit of wisdom give us vision for the road.

May the love of Christ make us caring companions,

as together we go forth from this place. **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.