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ARE YOU NEW?

If you would like to find your Worship Plus One, we would love to visit with you and help you explore the First Church groups or ministries of special interest to you! Finding your Worship Plus One will help you meet others, build relationships, and grow stronger in your faith.

For details, please email Lisa Helm (lhelm@myfumc.org), Director of Welcoming Ministries or Dr. Mike Marshall (mmarshall@myfumc.org), Associate Pastor of Leadership Development — and be sure to include your phone number in your email!



Discipleship is the process of being shaped by the Holy Spirit through spiritual practices to become more like Jesus. **Healthy Plate Discipleship** uses a variety of practices to help you more faithfully follow Jesus Christ. Try all six areas to grow strong in faithful discipleship. Learn more at fumcfw.org/healthyplate.



Tuesday, March 21 | 11:30 am | Sanctuary | Luncheon | 12:15 pm | Wesley Hall



Friday, March 23 | 10:30 am – 1:00 pm | Wesley Hall



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Traditional Service
March 19, 2023 | 11:00 am

“Tough Love”

Matthew 25:1-13

Rev. Lance Marshall
Senior Pastor

Welcome and Announcements
Rev. Zhenya Gurina Rodriguez, PhD, Associate Pastor

Prelude: “Lift High the Cross”
Cathy Moklebust, arranger
Fifth Street Bells and Peggy Graff, organ
Thomas Williams, director

***Call to Worship**
Dr. Mike Marshall, Associate Pastor
One: Are you awake? Are you alert?
All: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.
One: Are you watching the signs? Are you interpreting what is happening today?
All: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.
One: Do you see opportunities for ministry? Do you see the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the needy?
All: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.
One: Come, let us worship and let us work in the reign of God. Christ has extended the invitation:
All: let us work together in the reign of God on earth. Amen.

***Hymn 61: “Come, Thou Almighty King”**

***Affirmation of Faith 881**
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Gloria Patri 70**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
****Please be seated**

Psalter Reading: Psalm 119
Sung Response: O how He loves you and me! O how He loves you and me! He gave His life. What more could He give? O how He loves you; O how He loves me; O how He loves you and me!
One: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.
All: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.
One: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.
All: Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to gain!
One: Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; and give me life in your ways.
All: Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.
One: Turn away the reproach which I dread; for your ordinances are good.

All: Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!
Sung Response
One: Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your salvation according to your promise;
All: then shall I have an answer for those who taunt me, for I trust in your word.
One: And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your ordinances.
All: I will keep your law continually, for ever and ever;
One: and I shall walk at liberty, for I have sought your precepts.
All: I will also speak of your testimonies before rulers, and shall not be put to shame;
One: for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love.
All: I revere your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.
Sung Response

Faith Like a Child
“Mister Mark” Burrows, Director of Children’s Ministries

***Hymn 463: “Lord, Speak to Me”**

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13
Julie Fagan, lay reader
God speaks to us through the reading of scripture.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon Series: Tough Love
Rev. Phyllis Barren, Associate Pastor

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory: “Keep Your Lamps”
Andre Thomas, arranger
Choral Union
Percussionist: Wes Griffin

***Doxology 95**

***Benediction**
One: Our gathering will soon be ended. Where will we go, and what will we do?
All: We will go out to be God’s people in the world.
One: May grace, peace, hope, love, and joy forever accompany you. Amen.

***Congregational Benediction: “I Surrender All” (refrain)**
I surrender all, (I surrender all,)
I surrender all, (I surrender all,)
All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

***Postlude: “Lift High the Cross”**
John Leavitt, arranger
Peggy Graff, organist

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth – we are glad you’re here to worship with us today!

Please let us know you are here by filling out the attendance pad as it comes by.

Asterisks (*) indicate times when you are invited to stand as you are able.

In addition to your regular contribution, every one dollar (\$1) bill placed in the offering plate during the month of March will support the Methodist Justice Ministries.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given anonamously this week.

Lent Banners
The season of Lent provides a blessed opportunity for reflection as we approach the altar of our Lord’s sacrifice with hope in His mercy.

The seasonal wall hangings (paraments) reflect the themes and color of this liturgical season. The purple of Lent represents sorrow and repentance. Grey, the color of ashes, calls us back to Ash Wednesday, when we received this symbol of mourning and humility on our foreheads. The tan fabric suggests desert sands and the arid nature of sin.

The coarse ropes suspended between the fabric panels also carry symbolic meaning. The five groupings of ropes remind us of the five wounds Christ bore on the cross. The rope itself is a symbol of the betrayal of Christ as the soldiers bound him after the kiss of Judas. The stones, woven into the ropes, represent the sin that weighs down our souls. The knots in the ropes suggest the discord in our families, the hurts between married couples, and the absence of peace and joy caused by our pride and failure to depend on God.

These paraments provide a visual reminder of the mercy God offers us not only in the Lenten Season but also throughout the entire year.

Thank you Dianne Fisher for helping make our banners happen.