

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent



The purpose of Groce United Methodist Church is to build the family of God through praising God, bringing others to Christ, teaching the faith, strengthening the fellowship, and sending forth in service.

Groce United Methodist Church
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W. Gerald Davis - Pastor
Kevin Bryant - Music Director/Organist
Debbie Ross - Handbell Director
Jennifer Terbeek - Administrator
Veronica Bagwell - Secretary

Sunday Worship Celebration

March 19, 2023

*** Where indicated, stand if you are able.**

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE

“Choral Dorian”
Jehan Alain

* WELCOME / CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

All: We are learning to follow Jesus.

Leader: On this Lenten journey, where do we find God’s presence among us?

All: One thing we know: God calls us to witness extraordinary love in ordinary moments.

Leader: On this Lenten journey, how does God’s presence work among us?

All: One thing we know: God uses the messy and mundane to heal and restore us to one another.

Leader: On this Lenten journey, what does God’s presence do in our midst?

All: One thing we know: God opens us to recognize presence, sustenance, and abundance where the world perceives isolation and lack.

Leader: Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

All: We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! AMEN.

* OPENING HYMN 57

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Oh God of miracle and mighty deeds, we acknowledge your healing and comforting presence in our lives. We confess that we have been drawn in by materialism and driven by consumerism. Open our hearts to a new way of being. Send your anointing and grant us fresh insight for spiritual breakthroughs. Shine the light of your truth into our relationships and grant us victory over every secret and shame. We thank you in advance for healings and renewals in our lives. In the name of Jesus, we pray. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

SONG OF PRAISE TFWS 2086

“Open Our Eyes”

SPECIAL MUSIC
Handbell Ensemble

“I Surrender All”
Arr. Alan Hager

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / 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. AMEN.

SPECIAL MUSIC
Vee & Mr. T

“Guide My Life”
Original Song by Will Troxell

SCRIPTURE

John 9: Selected Verses

ANTHEM
Chancel Choir
Frances Duff - Cello

“O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”
Heather Sorenson

SERMON

“Blindness of the Heart”

SPECIAL MUSIC

“In the Cross”
Thomas Keesecker

* DOXOLOGY

* CLOSING HYMN

“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Benedictus”
Alec Rowley

SENDING FORTH

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

*Our service of worship has ended.
Now our worship through service begins.*

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Announcements

Sunday Ushers - Thank you to our ushers! (9:00am) **Maro Slaughter** (11:00am) **True Morse, Pat Leonard, Fred Bailey.**

Blessing Box Sunday - Today is Blessing Box Sunday! Please consider donating non-perishable items for our neighbors in need. See the insert for donation suggestions.

UMCOR Sunday - There is a Special Offering today for UMCOR. This offering will go toward disaster relief both here at home and internationally.

Meeting Reminders -

- **Worship/Witness** - will meet **today, March 19, at 12:30pm** in the Choir room.
- **Youth** - will meet **today, March 19, at 5pm** in Asbury Hall.
- **Miriam Circle** - will meet **Tuesday, March 21, at 3pm** in Charter Hall.

Afternoon of Hymns - The second concert of our Spring series will feature piano and organ performed by Kevin Bryant and Joel Matthews. Join us **today, March 19, at 3pm** for an Afternoon of Hymns!

Groce Family Meeting - There will be a Q & A Groce Family Meeting next **Sunday, March 26, from 10-11am** in the Sanctuary. The meeting will be facilitated by True Morse and everyone is welcome (including non-members). This will mark the first quarterly meeting of the year.

Newsletter - If you or your group would like to advertise an upcoming event in next month's newsletter, please email your group/event name and brief description to Veronica Bagwell *no later than March 23*. veronicab@groceumc.org

Worship/Witness - We are in need of people to serve on weekly visitation teams one Sunday of each month as well as people to serve as greeters. Please contact Laura Jones: **(928) 279-0506** or the church office to join or for more information.

Ringers Needed! - The Ringing God's Praise Handbell Choir is looking for people to join their praise through music! Contact Debbie Ross for more information: **(828) 424-1360**.

Music Notes - Lent is a special season in the life of the church. It's a time of reflection and exploring our Christian walk. The music during Lent also follows this description of being meditative, reflective, and tranquil. The music in the church during this time is not as bright and grand as it is in other times during the church year. There are no alleluias, and the music in following with this mood is often dissonant and written in minor keys. The Postludes become voluntaries during Lent, and also follow this pattern. They are not big organ toccatas, improvisations, etc. that are the norm for most of the church year. My hope for each of you is that Lent will be a beautiful, reflective time in your life as we walk through the passion of the season together in anticipation of the Easter resurrection.

~ Kevin