

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

SCOUT SUNDAY

1st Sunday of Lent

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

*We seek, we wonder, we ponder the mystery that is you, God.
We would like some clarity to cling to!
But instead of the certainty we seek, your answer is an invitation:
the invitation to love. **Amen.***

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We shine light on the past—so we may learn
We shine light on the future—so we may have hope
We shine light on deceit—so we may have justice
We shine light on goodness—so we may be inspired
We shine a light in the dark places—so all may know Christ.
Let us worship God.

*HYMN #67

“We, Thy People Praise Thee”

**1 We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee, God of every nation!
We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee, Lord of Hosts eternal!
Days of wonder, days of beauty, days of rapture filled with light
tell thy goodness, tell thy mercies, tell thy glorious might.
We, thy people praise thee, praise thee, praise thee evermore.**

2 We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee, God of every nation!

**We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee, Lord of Hosts eternal!
 For thy blessings, for thy bounty, joyful songs to thee we sing,
 songs of glory, songs of triumph to our God and King.
 We, thy people praise thee, praise thee, praise thee evermore.**

SPOTLIGHT ON SCOUTING

PRAYER RESPONSE

**Gracious God,
 We lift to you the ministry of scouting.
 We offer you thanks
 for camping, to teach us that the world is our great home;
 for study and work, to build character;
 for service, to see our responsibility to those in need;
 for encouragement in genuine patriotism and vital faith.
 Bless the work of Scouting, in this place and around the world,
 that, through its efforts, the young may,
 increase in wisdom and in stature,
 and in favor with You and all people. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4: 7-19

Jayvyn Matthew, Reader

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19 We love because he first loved us.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR **“The Heavens Declare the Glory of God”** **by James Brighton**

MESSAGE **“QUESTIONS” SERMON SERIES: WHO IS GOD?**

GIVING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

***DEDICATION**

God, there are many things we do not understand. We do not understand the emptiness of accumulation nor our desire to acquire more. Our desire is to live this year more fully and faithfully. Our gifts today are symbols of our hope and inner yearnings. Receive them and transform them by the power of your love. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY #94**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

MORNING PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER **Pastor Karen**

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.

***HYMN** **“A Hymn for Scout Sunday”** **C. Gillette**
TUNE “The Church’s One Foundation”

1 We thank you, God, for values that guide us day by day — that help us learn to follow your faithful, loving way. We thank you, too, for Scout Troops — where youth are taught to be mature and moral leaders in each community.

2 A Scout earns trust from others; he's loyal to the end. He's helpful, friendly, courteous to stranger and to friend. He's kind and he's obedient, He's cheerful, thrifty, too; he's brave and clean and reverent in all he tries to do.

3 We thank you, God, for values that send our youth outdoors for hiking and canoeing, for cook-outs and S'mores. As youth go out exploring, they learn creation's worth. They care for what you've given — the water, sky and earth.

4 We thank you, God, for values that make our country great: for love that dares to welcome, for love that conquers hate. We thank you, God, for Scouting — for youth and leaders, too, who seek to serve their country by first obeying you.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** ***Stand as able.**

Altar Flowers - In appreciation of **Joan Coleman's** generous donation, flowers this morning are given to the **glory of God** and in observance of the **season of Lent**.

THIS MORNING WE WELCOME the Scouts, their Leaders and Families. We honor all our young people engaged in the honorable tradition of scouting. We are proud of them, and gladly acknowledge their importance to us and our community. We thank their leaders, who give valuable time and effort to convening and training them, and for all who help with their troop in any way. We thank you for all you do, we are proud of you! Please join us for a time of refreshments after the service.

SAVE THE DATE! The Annual Fish & Chips Dinner to benefit our mission and ministries will be held on Sunday, April 30 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. This year's dinner includes Dine In and Take Out.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Monday, February 27	10:00 AM PRAYER DISCUSSION GROUP 7:00 PM CHURCH COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 28	7:00 PM LENTEN ZOOM MEDITATION (Use same zoom as Sunday worship)

LENTEN STUDY BOOKS Toward the Cross: Heart-Sharpening Lessons for Lent are available in the lobby. There is a devotional reading for every day. The readings will go along with the theme that each special guest preacher will use in her or his meditation each Tuesday evening.