



United Presbyterian Church  
1701 E. Second Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401

February 18, 2024

The Reverend Cheryl Montgomery  
812-332-1850 [www.upcbloomington.org](http://www.upcbloomington.org)

**United Presbyterian Church**  
February 18, 2024 – First Sunday in Lent



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**     **Reverend Cheryl Montgomery**  
**PRELUDE**     *Prelude in D Minor BWV 851*–J.S. Bach     Benjamin Watkins, piano

**Sanctuary Flowers** are by Aline & Fadi Haddad in loving memory of Aline's aunt & mother.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 25)     Jim Haverstock, liturgist

Liturgist: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust;

**People: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

Liturgist: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

**People: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

**\*Opening Hymn**     *Forty Days and Forty Nights*     #77

**PASSING OF THE PEACE** (liturgist & congregation)



God calls Jesus "my Child," "my Son" – beautiful words that get at their cherished relationship of oneness. God is saying to Jesus, "We belong to one another!" Jesus would later call all who follow him his brothers and sisters. That means we belong to one another in Christ Jesus. As cherished members of the family of God, let us greet one another with the peace of Christ. **The peace of Christ be with you.**

**People: And also with you.**

MUSIC for MEDITATION

*Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*     Members of the UPC Quartet

**Call to Confession** (Liturgist)

God remains faithful to the covenant of steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful. Without fear, then, we confess our sins.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (in unison with the liturgist)

**God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us. Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil in its many guises, and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. In covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety and new life. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Liturgist: As Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood onto dry ground, so in baptismal waters we are brought from death into new life in Christ. Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, forgives us and reconciles us and all things in heaven

and on earth.

**People: Thanks be to God for this good news!**

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Liturgist)

Gracious God, in rushing waters and in dry wilderness, in every season and circumstance, we need your sustaining word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, proclaim the good news among us today so that we may repent and believe and see anew how the time is fulfilled and the kingdom has come near; in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

**First Reading:** *Genesis 9: 8 - 17* (Pew Bible p.6; Large Print p.12) – Liturgist

**Second Reading:** *I Peter 3: 18 - 22* (Pew Bible p.924; Large Print p.1869) – Liturgist

**Gospel Reading:** *Mark 1: 9 - 15* (Pew Bible p.764; Large Print p.1540)–Pastor

Pastor: The word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON**      *The Other Side of God*      Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the mercy you so freely offer us through the grace of our baptism— safe passage through the sea, justice rolling down like water, deliverance from sin and death forever. By the power of your Holy Spirit, poured out upon us in baptism, teach us to love and serve you faithfully and reconcile us to you and to one another as members of one living body; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*Hymn**      *Baptized in Water*      #492

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—** The Apostle’s Creed (traditional) led by Rev. Montgomery  
**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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Gloria Patri*

#579

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and The Lord's Prayer** Reverend Cheryl Montgomery  
**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**CALL TO OFFERING**

Offertory *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Members of the UPC Quartet  
 \*Doxology #592

Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Cheryl Montgomery

\*Closing Hymn *My Song is Love Unknown* #76

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

**POSTLUDE** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

\*Please stand if you are able

**UPC Prayer List** - Email requests to: [upcbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:upcbloomington@gmail.com).

Kathleen Olds Rev. David Rosen Anita Steverson Roby Lorimer Patty Lucas

His Eyes Mission Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project

Our military men and women around the world

The people of Ukraine and Middle East Our military men and women

The faculty and staff of Monroe County United Ministries

**Commissioners to the Presbytery of Ohio Valley Assembly**

Please pray for all ministers and elders who will be preparing for the online Presbytery Assembly on next Saturday, February 24th. Remember especially those from your congregation who will be attending.



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