

Second



SUNDAY

IN LENT

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

February 25, 2024

The Reverend Cheryl Montgomery
812-332-1850 www.upcbloomington.org

United Presbyterian Church
February 25, 2024 – Second Sunday in Lent



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS **Reverend Cheryl Montgomery**
PRELUDE *Praeludium in C# Minor BWV 849*–J.S. Bach Benjamin Watkins, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Elder Jan Berend Heitink, liturgist

Liturgist: Let us not be ashamed of our Savior.

People: Let us sing and praise our God out loud. In the midst of the crowd, we will praise you.

Liturgist: In our community, we will bear witness to our faith.

People: Let us set our minds on divine things.

Liturgist: Let us take up our cross and follow Christ.

***Opening Hymn** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* #84

PASSING OF THE PEACE (liturgist & congregation)



Liturgist: As followers of Christ, let us pick up our cross and follow him, even when the road is long. On this journey, let us draw strength from one another as we share signs of grace and peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

MUSIC for MEDITATION

In the Garden Members of the UPC Quartet

Call to Confession (Liturgist)

When we cry to God in prayer and confession, God hears. Let us approach God's throne of grace with confidence and faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In unison with Liturgist)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not been sincere Christians. We claim to follow Jesus but have not taken his path of sacrificial love. We profess to be disciples, but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship. We affirm the virtue of self-denial, but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for sincere repentance through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Liturgist: God does not forsake us. Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love. Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Pastor: Thank you, O God, for the gift of our baptism — the sign of your abundant mercy, the seal of your steadfast love. Through the grace of Jesus Christ you wash away our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. You create clean hearts for us and renew our spirits within us. By the power of your Holy Spirit, restore to us the joy of salvation. Strengthen and sustain us in our willingness to serve you now and in all days to come. Open our lips, O Lord, and we will declare your praise; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Pastor)

Merciful, God, help us to seek you and the message you intend for us in your Word read and proclaimed today. Amen.

First Reading: *Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16* (Pew Bible p.11; Large Print p.22) – Liturgist

Second Reading: *Romans 4:13-25* (Pew Bible p.859; Large Print p.1735) – Liturgist

Gospel Reading: *Mark 8:31-38* (Pew Bible p.771; Large Print p.1555)–Pastor

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

SERMON *The Way of the Cross* Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

*Hymn *When We Are Tempted to Deny Your Son* #86

*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 *Lord of Our Growing Years* Members of the UPC Quartet
**Doxology* #592

Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Cheryl Montgomery

***Closing Hymn** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* #101

CHARGE AND BLESSING Reverend Cheryl Montgomery
POSTLUDE *Lift High the Cross* Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: 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

The faculty and staff of Monroe County United Ministries

The Korean Presbyterian Church is a worshipping community in Bloomington. They worship on Sunday afternoon in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church (as well as by Zoom). Many of the worshippers have ties to Indiana University, as students, faculty, and staff. The Rev. Sang Tae Lee has served as pastor since the first Sunday of July in 2002. Rev. Lee will retire from his pastoral ministry at the end of June 2024; the search for a new pastor will begin in the near future. Please pray for Rev. Lee, the members of the steering committee (the group that guides the work and ministry of the worshipping community), and those who gather each Sunday for worship.



United Presbyterian Church Staff

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