



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

March 3, 2024

The Reverend Cheryl Montgomery  
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## United Presbyterian Church

March 3, 2024 – Deacons Sunday Third Sunday in Lent



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

**PRELUDE** *Prelude in B-flat Minor BWV 867–J.S. Bach* Benjamin Watkins, piano

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 19)

Elder Souheil Haddad, liturgist

Liturgist: The heavens declare the glory of God.

**People: The earth proclaims God's handiwork.**

Liturgist: In speech without words, their voices are heard.

**People: In praise without language, their sounds extend throughout creation.**

Liturgist: The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.

**People: The teachings of God are sure, making wise the simple.**

Liturgist: The precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart.

**People: The ordinances of God are true, and are righteous altogether.**

Liturgist: Come and proclaim with the heavens the glory and majesty of our God.

**\*Opening Hymn** *For the Beauty of the Earth* #473

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



Liturgist: Living according to God's law brings joy to the heart, light to the mind, and peace to the soul. Let us share this joy, light, and peace with one another as we exchange signs of peace and remember the way of the cross.

**People: And also with you.**

MUSIC for MEDITATION

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Members of the UPC Quartet

**Call to Confession** (Liturgist)

Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly; we are still weak. In the cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace. We confess our sins, trusting in God's wisdom and strength rather than our own.

**Prayer of Confession** (in unison with liturgist)

**When we set up barriers that prevent others from knowing the truth of your love, forgive us and break down those walls. When we set up barriers in our own minds and lives that keep us from knowing the truth of your love, break down our walls with your grace. When we are confused by the world's wisdom, break through our muddled minds and shine the clarity of your teachings. Draw us ever closer to you, to one another, and to the beauty of your wisdom and your love. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Christ reduces the barriers we set up to dust and ashes that blow away to nothing in the power of his mercy and his grace. We are no longer divided or separated, but are united in the wisdom and the love of God. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

### Prayer for Illumination (liturgist)

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**First Reading:** *Exodus 20:1-17* (Pew Bible p.57; Large Print p.114) – Liturgist

**Second Reading:** *I Corinthians 1:18-25* (Pew Bible p.859; Large Print p.1754) – Liturgist

**Gospel Reading:** *John 2: 13-22* (Pew Bible p.869; Large Print p.1635)–Pastor

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

**SERMON** *Covenant Living* 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.**

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.

**\*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**

Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

