



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

March 10, 2024

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

United Presbyterian Church
 March 10, 2024 – Fourth Sunday in Lent



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS **Reverend Cheryl Montgomery**
PRELUDE *Prelude in G Minor BWV 885–J.S. Bach* Benjamin Watkins, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 107)

Deacon Andy Hill, liturgist

Liturgist: We give you thanks, O God, for you are good; your steadfast love endures forever.

People: **When we cried to you with our troubles, O Lord, you saved us from our distress.**

Liturgist: We give you thanks, O God, for your wonderful works to all of humanity.

People: **Hear now our offerings of praise and thanksgiving, as we tell of your deeds with songs of joy.**

***Opening Hymn** *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* #457

PASSING OF THE PEACE (liturgist & congregation)



Liturgist: Thanking God for the bounty of love we find in Christ Jesus, let us share our joy as we exchange signs of Christ's peace this morning.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

MUSIC for MEDITATION
Our Cities Cry to You, O God
 Members of the UPC Quartet

Call to Confession (Liturgist)

This is the judgment that the light has come into the world, for people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us uncover our sin before the liberating light of Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison with liturgist)

O God, in Christ Jesus you proclaimed your love for all creation. Have mercy on us as we confess our sin. We have overpopulated the earth and violated its goodness. We have depleted nature of its vital resources. Pollution besets us, waters lie stagnant. We care not for ourselves as temples, nor for communities as buildings not built with hands. We plead for forgiveness and ask for your guidance. Help us to be disciplined in taking care of your gifts, lest in neglecting them we lose them forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Liturgist)

Hear the good news: Know that God is rich in mercy. Even though we are dead through our trespasses, God's great love for us makes us alive through Jesus the Christ. We are thus saved

by God's grace. Live in the assurance that, as we confess our sin, through Christ's intercession on our behalf we are forgiven.

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 God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you have claimed us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling.

People: Make us as water in a dry and thirsty world.

Pastor: Make us places of refreshment. Root us and establish us in love, that with all your people, we may rightly and justly serve you.

People: Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, open your Word and illumine our darkened world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. Amen.

First Reading: *Psalm 107:1-3; 17-22* (Pew Bible p.461; Large Print p.934) – Liturgist

Second Reading: *Ephesians 2:1-10* (Pew Bible p.890; Large Print p.1799) – Liturgist

Gospel Reading: *John 3: 16-21* (Pew Bible p.811; Large Print p.1636)–Pastor

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

SERMON *The Saving Act of God* Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Hymn: *There's A Wideness in God's Mercy* #298

***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

O God, You Are My God (Psalm 63)

Members of the UPC Quartet

**Doxology* #592

Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Cheryl Montgomery

***Closing Hymn** *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* #78

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

POSTLUDE *There Is a Balm in Gilead* 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 Joe Rhuebottom

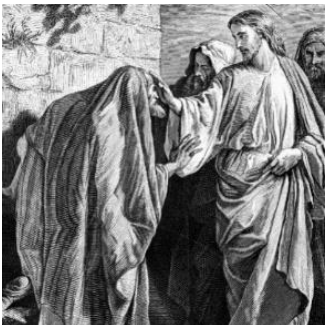
His Eyes Mission Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project

The people of Ukraine and Middle East

The staff and faculty of Monroe County United Ministries

Hemenway Memorial Presbyterian Church in Boonville is a growing, thriving congregation seeking to serve God's people in all areas of life: spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical health, family cohesiveness, and financial awareness. We desire to grow in spiritual maturity while living out God's call of the Great Commission by being the active hands and feet of Jesus Christ alive and serving the world. We are present in suffering as well as happiness-in tears and in laughter. We yearn to make a difference in our community, one day at a time, and one life at a time.

Spiritual Reminder of Lent's Purpose



"(Lent) is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism."

-Pope Benedict XVI