Fifth Sunday in Lent

Albany
First United
Methodist Church

April 3, 2022

Rev. Lura Kidner-Miesen, Pastor
Eric McKirdy, Organist & Music Director

Centering Thoughts

God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.
—Pope Francis

So often we want Jesus to manage the effects of sin without actually addressing the root issue. But Jesus loves us too much to offer only a superficial solution. He knows the hidden sins of our hearts, and He lovingly insists on dealing with those first. —Asheritah Ciuciu

Only in the Cross of Christ will we receive power when we are powerless. We will find strength when we are weak. We will experience hope when our situation is hopeless. Only in the Cross is there peace for our troubled hearts.
—Michael Youssef

But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners
Christ died for us.—Romans 5:8

Welcome!

Prelude

Invitation to Worship Eva Hitt

Holy Mystery, we come before you in the shadow of the cross.
Thank you for your amazing, sacrificial love.
We praise you for turning defeat into victory and death into life.
Come, Holy Spirit, and give us the courage to receive your love and pass it on. Amen.

Song: *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* TFWS #2088 (sing twice)

Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

Message: "Power of the Cross" Pastor Lura

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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: *Let There Be Peace on Earth* UMH #431 (sing twice)

Prayer for Holy Communion

God's love for the world was so great that the Holy One gave us Jesus Christ, so anyone who believes in him shall not die but will receive eternal life.

We come to this spiritual meal and receive strength for our weakness, healing for our brokenness, and forgiveness for our sins. God blesses us and sends us out to be a blessing.

We give thanks for your compassion and gifts, O God;

We rejoice at your invitation to share in this meal, and we receive again your abundant grace.

We remember how Jesus gave himself for us. At supper, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his friends, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Take it, eat it, and remember me." After supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it with his friends, saying, "This is my blood shed for you. Take it, drink it, and remember me." In this bread and in this cup we receive again the generous and costly gift of life, offered to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This meal is a proclamation of God's goodness, a thanksgiving for God's grace and a sharing in God's life.

Great I Am, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that they may be for us the presence of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other and one in service to the world.

Hymn: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Kyiv Symphony Orchestra & Chorus

Closing Blessing:

Go into this day trusting in Jesus Christ, who suffered, died, and lives forever. May the Spirit surround you with comfort and strength, and work through you to bring healing and goodness into the world. Amen.

Postlude

Announcements:

~ We celebrate that we can sing during in-person worship! (Please continue to wear a mask.)

~ Our Lenten Organ Recital continues this evening with organist Annette Upton, and will be online starting at 7 p.m.

~ United Methodist Women meet Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and all women are invited.

~ Our Maundy (Holy) Thursday worship service is April 14th at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary and online.

~ The Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists meet on Saturday, April 9, at 10 a.m. at the Beaverton United Methodist Church.

~ Copies of the April issue of the church's newsletter, the Tower Notes, are on the table in the narthex.

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The office is temporarily closed, but phone messages and emails are checked regularly.