

CALL to WORSHIP

This is the day (This is the day) **that Lord hath made** (that the Lord has made); **let us rejoice** (let us rejoice) **and be glad in it** (and be glad in it). **This is the day. This is the day, that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day** (this is the day) **that the Lord hath made.** (UMH # 657)

Let us pray –

Dear Heavenly Father. Here we are today, each in our own home but together in spirit worshipping you. You know our thoughts and fears. You know how strong we are as you gave us that strength to persevere. As we come to you now, please be with us. Let us feel your loving arms around each of us.

Please be with the health care workers and the emergency responders as they are faced endlessly with the potential of illness every day – protect and guide them. You are the ultimate healer and you provide these people with the gift of healing. Be with those who are sick – from any disease and illness – as they need your healing touch.

Be with the families. This is a stressful time. Many people – those who are young, old, vulnerable – they are unsure of what is happening during this national health crisis. Be with those who feel lonely and alone. Comfort them and give them peace. Give all of us peace.

We ask all of this in Your Son's name. You gave us the greatest gift of all – your Son. Let us pray the prayer that He taught us:

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

An excerpt from a message by our **District Superintendent, Rev. Nola Anderson:**

In this season, I am reminded of Psalm 46:1-3 "God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble. That's why we won't be afraid when the world falls apart, when the mountains crumble into the center of the sea, when its waters roar and rage, when the mountains shake because of its surging waves".

I am confident that we serve a powerful God who is able to do for us more than all we can ask or imagine. While we continue to have faith in and serve a powerful God, we also must use our God-given wisdom during these times. I encourage you to support your local church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness as we vow to do as members.

Let us continue to pray for each other and the world at large during these difficult times. Grace and peace!

You'll Never Walk Alone by Rogers and Hammerstein from Carousel

When you walk through a storm
Hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark

At the end of the storm
There's a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark

Walk on through the wind
Walk on through the rain
Though your dreams be tossed and blown

Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone

You'll never walk alone

Psalm 23 (UMH 754)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures, leads me beside still waters, restores my life, leads me in right paths for the sake of the Lord's name. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord as long as I live.

The Gospel lesson for today is taken from the Good News translation

John 9:1-4 – Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

¹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. ² His disciples asked him, "Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parents' sin?"

³ Jesus answered, "His blindness has nothing to do with his sins or his parents' sins. He is blind so that God's power might be seen at work in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must keep on doing the work of him who sent me; night is coming when no one can work.

This is the Gospel of our Lord. Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Message

This is an excerpt from the sermon that Pastor Betty Dingman planned to preach at her church, used with her permission and blessing (the full sermon is on the Martville UMC's Facebook.)

My dear Church family and friends. I am posting a recap of the sermon I was going to preach tomorrow. I pray you will be blessed by reading it and that you will pray for each one of us and that will give a wonderful comfort for each one to know we are being held in love and prayer to the God who loves each and every one of us.

Someone once asked Helen Keller, who had been blind since the age of nineteen months, if blindness were the worst thing that could befall a person. She answered, "the worst thing that could befall a person was NOT to lose their sight BUT to lose their VISION."

As a child, Helen Keller had lost her hearing and sight yet was able to lead a beautiful life to complete college and become an author and lecturer. This happened because someone was able to break through her silent, dare world and teach her how to communicate. She was able to lead a very beautiful life of helping others despite her limitations. In spite of great obstacles, she had a sense of PURPOSE and VISION in life.

Today in chapter 9 of John's gospel we meet a blind man whom Jesus will heal. This story has big cast – and by the time you get to the end of the story, you realize that the man born blind was NOT the only one there that was blind. The chapter opens with Jesus passing by this blind man and the disciples, who perhaps wanted to ask him a theological question.

VERSES 1 & 2 - His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

So let's begin with the disciples. What the disciples asked showed that they themselves were

I. Blinded by a Judgmental Attitude

- It was a common belief back then that any physical defect was a punishment for someone's sin.
- The question they asked wasn't unusual but it showed that they were **blind to God's reality**.

VERSE 3 - Here's how Jesus opened their eyes to the truth.

§ - "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

- When the **disciples** looked at the blind man, they saw someone to **analyze and talk about**. When **Jesus** looked at the blind man, he saw someone who could **display the glory of God**.

- Most people today don't believe that a sickness or deformity is a punishment for someone's sin. When we look at people with problems, many of us are blinded by a **judgmental attitude**. How do you see the people around you?
 - When you see people who are flawed and struggling?
 - someone who's sick or disabled ---
 - an alcoholic or drug addict ---
 - a homeless person ---
- ❖ Do we see them as a lost cause?
- We need to open your eyes to the potential for God to transform the lives around us ... § the way He transformed the life of this blind man.

**Allow Jesus to open our eyes this morning so that we too may see Him.
John 8:12 Jesus declares boldly, that He is the Light of the World". Let us
open our eyes to see the light.**

And all of God's people said... AMEN!

A few thoughts from Debbie Daby, MUMC Lay Leader - How have you been called to serve? I believe often our actions don't appear to us to be service to the Lord but they are. When we are kind to others. Our generosity in a time of need. Our love for one another. You don't always know how a small gesture can really impact another's life.

This week has seemed to me to be a fast rollercoaster ride, with the twists and turns, the ups and downs, and the occasional flips as the track has a corkscrew turn. But I have experienced wonderful things this week. My work colleagues helping out one another. Our church family trying to make sure that everything that needs attention is being addressed. My own family reaching out to one another to make sure we are in contact and can share a time of sadness and a laugh, possibly in the same conversation.

This national health crisis will not be over in just a few days. But we can pull together and support one another. We all have talents. I am thinking that possibly you would like to help – if you say yes to any of these, please send me a note and I will see what we can do to match up everything:

- **Would you like to make phone calls to members of the congregation?**
Check in with those who are home, see if there is anything that is needed.
Looking for someone (or someones) to help organize that as well
- **Would you be able to shop for food and needed supplies for people who may not be able to get out?** Hopeful that if there is a need that the supplies could be dropped on a doorstep and not have people needing to interact (though not exactly sure how to deal with the financial end but we could help figure that out). Looking for someone to coordinate that as well
- **Would you like to be added to the Prayer Warriors list?** This is a group of people who regularly receive prayer requests and share them with their Prayer Team (current Team Warriors: **Wynnette Dohse, Diana Rockhill, Pete Reidy, Marilyn Stephens, Gloria Bickel and Debbie (Rockhill) Daby**). Would you like to join? If you are interested, you can contact any of these people to join their team – there is always room for another to join in prayer – the more prayers, the better!
- **Lastly, would you like to receive a phone call?** It would be up to you as to how often – just once a week, every few days or daily? A check-in. This would allow someone else who may be home alone to connect with another person. So, if you are not feeling lonely or alone, you could still offer this to someone else who could call and check in with you. This would be coordinated by the person (or people) from the first question

I put an out-of-the-office message on the church's computer yesterday (and Vern Tryon sent it out to you as well): Due to the COVID-19 national health crisis, the Minetto United Methodist Church building is closed. **But the MUMC people are very much working together to meet the needs of the community.**

Let us pray for...

Members of our congregation who are in need of our intercession:

Michelle Archer	Marilyn Marks	Betsy Sweeting
Mary Lou Bjorkman	Cindy Mather	June & Vern Tryon
Ann Eason	Wendy Page	Garry & Lynn Visconti
Karen Krause	Thomas Rogers	Dick Wheeler

Community members who are in need of our intercession:

Jackie Comerford	Jack Kaple	LaRue Maynard
John David	Luckner Joseph	Joyce Molinari
Lucas Grant	Janet Matthews	Greg Rosplock
Nicole Grant	Gwen Maynard	Carmi Wells

To those who are unable to attend worship with us:

June Baxter	Bill & Daryl Martin	Joan Waterbury
Karen Eason	Marie Smith	

We extend our deepest sympathies to the Whitman family on the recent passing of **Vi Whitman** at age 99.

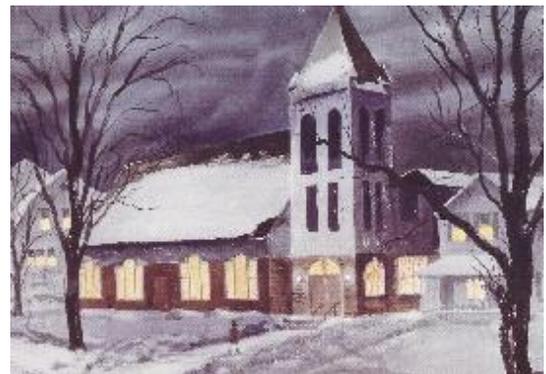
As we are all in need of prayer, this week, please pray for those families with the last names beginning with A – D (please let us know if I missed anyone so they can be added in the future):

Allen	Bjorkman	Christopher	Daby	Dodge
Armstrong	Bradley	Cipra	DeMent	Dohse
Bailey	Bradt	Clafin	DePoint	Dumas
Becksted	Bruns	Comerford	Dice	Dunsmoor
Bickel	Busch	Craig	Dingman	Duschen

And, last but not least, please pray for our **Pastor Guerschom Saint Ange and his family**, who are in Westchester County, NY during this national health crisis.

LET US PRAY

Revive, O Lord, not only us but those whom we hold before you at this time – those whom we hold before in our heads and raise up before you with the prayer of our lips. We ask for health and wellness, for love and support, for care and compassion, for connection and fellowship in spirit. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.



BENEDICTION

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. May the rain fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again. May God hold you in the palm His hand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the COVID-19 national health crisis, the Minetto United Methodist Church building is closed. **But the MUMC people are very much working together to meet the needs of the community.**

If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Guerschom Saint Ange (914-602-4128). If you are unable to connect with Pastor G, you may contact MUMC Lay Leader Debbie (Rockhill) Daby (ddaby@twcny.rr.com / cell: 315-806-4530) and she will forward your message to someone who can help you.

If you have concerns to be raised in prayer, please contact one of the following: Wynnette Dohse, Diana Rockhill, Marilyn Stephens, Pete Reidy, Gloria Bickel, Debbie Daby or Pastor Guerschom Saint Ange. These people will share the request with their prayer team who are other from our congregation/community who will all pray for you and the concern that is raised.

Shared by our Bishop Mark Webb:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." -Philippians 4.6-7

"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. God will not fail you or forsake you." - Deuteronomy 31.6

There are some **United Methodist Churches offering live streams of worship** services (our church is in hopes of offering something similar in the near future):

- Sunday @ 10:30 am – www.uumcsyracuse.org & www.facebook.com/pg/uumcsyracuse.org/posts
- Sunday @ 11 am - www.asburyfirst.org/worship/live (Asbury First UMC in Rochester)

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