They are convinced that I have come from your presence, and they have fully believed that you sent me to represent you. So, with deep love, I pray for my disciples. So, with deep love, I pray for my disciples. I'm not asking on behalf of the unbelieving world, but for those who belong to you, those you have given me. For all who belong to me now belong to you. And all who belong to you now belong to me as well, and my glory is revealed through their surrendered lives. “Holy Father, I am about to leave this world to return and be with you, but my disciples will remain here. So, I ask that by the power of your name, protect each one that you have given me, and watch over them so that they will be united as one, even as we are one.

So, with deep love, I pray for my disciples.

I: The Word of God, for the People of God.  P: Praise to the Living Word.

SERMON: “SHOWING THE GLORY OF CHRIST IN US”  PASTOR CLARISSA

~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OURSELVES~

5th Ave. United Methodist Church - “Earn, Save, Give” Stewardship

*OFFERTORY PRAYER: (UNISON)

God of Glory and Majesty, we have seen your glory in Christ, for it shines in our lives through the faithful who have walked with us on this journey. In seeing Christ's glory in them, we have seen you. As we bring our gifts to you, remind us that the world will not see you and your glory unless they see it in each of us. Remind us as we move through each day that all around us are your children who are desperately searching for a glimpse of your holy presence and love. May they see it in us today. In the holy name of Christ, our Savior. Amen. (John 17:1-11)

*CLOSING HYMN: “Lift Every Voice and Sing”  UMH 519

~SEMDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

People: God of glory, empower us to take delight in doing your will. Transform our hearts and minds, as your chosen and precious people, that others would see Jesus in us. May your Holy Spirit so live within us that eternal life would come flooding up out of our words and deeds. Amen.

Pastor:

POSTLUDE: “Shalom to You”  UMH 666

“Ascension Day”
They told the startled disciples, “Galileans, why are you staring up into the sky? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but he will come back the same way that you saw him ascend.” Acts 1:11

Ascension Day, the fortieth day of Easter. It is part of the mystical element of Jesus, supernatural, hard to understand, hard to see how it applies to our lives. Except that it is a part of the Creed: “Ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of the Father.”

It is part of the story of the Christ. It might not be our story, but it is his. Except, he always turns it back to us. Always! Luke 24:44-53. Jesus connects his story with ours as he recounts the purpose of his mission and ministry on earth.

From there, he promises the Spirit to empower those who now were called to bring to fulfillment this promise, repentance, and forgiveness to all nations.

Sis. Debra Matthies, Liturgist

Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Pastor

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

PRELUDE: “Give Thanks”  TFWS 2036
Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ! Here we are God! We’ve come from our reopening week filled with many things. Some are filled with joy and excitement; others with sorrow and despair. Some are filled with energy, others are filled with weariness. Some are filled with love for you, others wonder where you are, for they feel far from you. We are the gathered once again as a physically separated congregation, yet laying ourselves before you with all the honesty we can muster. We give you what we are – eager, anxious, wanting creations. Create in us clean hearts as we are filled with your Spirit in this time of worship. Glory to you, Holy God! Glory! Let our worship and praise be completely to your glory.

CENTERING MUSIC: “Battle Hymn of the Republic” vs 1,2 UMH 717

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)
L: Let the hungry come to me, let the poor be fed
   Let the thirsty come and drink, share my wine and bread
   Though thou hast no money, come to me and eat!
   Drink the cup I offer, feed on finest wheat!
   (A Worship Book, #464, Delores Dufner)

P: We come to church today with different types of hunger for you.
L: Some of us sit down at the table eagerly, because we are hungry.

P: Some of us have come because we know we should eat, even though we don’t feel like it.
L: Some of us are starving.

P: And some of us have lost our appetite, and we don’t even know why.
L: And yet you have drawn us to your welcoming table, one and all, your arms open to embrace us just as we are.

All: As we settle in this morning, fill us with your presence so that when we leave today, we can leave saying, “That is exactly what I needed!”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 24)

Holy God, as we come into the presence of your divine holiness, we confess our many shortcomings. Our hands are not clean; our actions do not glorify you; our hearts are not pure; our motivations do not glorify you; our words are not true; our deceitfulness does not glorify you; our allegiance is fickle; our idolatry does not glorify you. By your mercy, O God, give us hands that are clean, hearts that are pure, tongues that are true, and souls that worship you alone, that our whole lives may glorify you. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Ephesians 1)

L: All you who seek God, and who have set your hope on Jesus Christ, hear the good news: we have received forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of God’s grace. As forgiven and beloved children of God, let us set our hope on Christ, and live for the praise of his glory. Amen.

*HYMN: “Through It All” (x3) UMH 507

~WELCOMING, ENGAGING, AND TEACHING OUR LITTLE PEOPLE~

YOU’RE NUMBER ONE!

~WE PROCLAIM~

THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 17:1-11 The Passion Translation (TPT)

This is what Jesus prayed as he looked up into heaven, “Father, the time has come. Unveil the glorious splendor of your Son so that I will magnify your glory! You have already given me authority over all people so that I may give the gift of eternal life to all those that you have given to me. Eternal life means to know and experience you as the only true God, and to know and experience Jesus Christ, as the Son whom you have sent. I have glorified you on the earth by faithfully doing everything you’ve told me to do. So, my Father, restore me back to the glory that we shared together when we were face-to-face before the universe was created.”

“Father, I have manifested who you really are and I have revealed you to the men and women that you gave to me. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have fastened your Word firmly to their hearts. And now at last they know that everything I have is a gift from you, And the very words you gave to me to speak I have passed on to them. They have received your words and carry them in their hearts.
YOU’RE NUMBER ONE!

John 17:1-11 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Where have you seen one of these foam fingers?

(Responses)

That’s right, we see them at sporting events. Some people wear them to cheer on their favorite team. They chant things such as, “We’re number one!” We get so excited that we think we are on the team. We are all part of something bigger than ourselves.

Each of you belongs to a school, but also to one classroom. We’re all in this worship together and are part of one church family. Jesus loves me this I know, but I am part of one family. We all come from one family, but we all are also a part of God’s family. We are all part of the one true God’s team.

We love to share with someone when we are excited. In today’s Scripture passage from the Gospel of John, Jesus shows us that prayer can be like that. Prayer is how we can tell God when we are excited, nervous, or worried.

What time of day you pray. Before a meal, bed or other times? Do you use a prayer such as the Lord’s Prayer? Or your own words?

Jesus reminds us that we are all together on God’s team. Jesus also teaches us that we can pray anytime, anywhere, about anything. We don’t have to use fancy words, and we don’t have to pray at a certain time of the day. God reminds us that each of us is on God’s team, and we are number one when we put God first in our lives.

PRAYER: Loving and Gracious God, we know that you love each of us like you love all of us. Thank you for hearing our prayers—prayers of excitement, prayers of worry, prayers for others. We are glad that we can talk to You anytime, anywhere, about anything. Amen.

Jesus Teaches About Prayer

For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:10 (NIV)


PRAY Y B S L E F X E B P H
U K I N G D O M L T S P D Q A
A Y Z A U B Q Q S E E R X L
U Q B S B U R W F Z A A E G L
O R R K P U J I U R Z D C K O
O N E O L F N P I P I A Q H W
T A A P X A A F V I X E M M E
E M D E D M F T W T F S N U D
M E C N H R D O H N L F B D W
P P K K R N E G R E S M Y Y U
A V N I I Q I C G R T C D Y
T N O F U N J C E S I N S A O
I J C W D K S D G I J V Q I A
O Q K I F B E K P I V J E L A
N M M W N M J J P V W E M Y P

FIND SEEK MIDNIGHT SINS
PRAY FATHER DAILY KINGDOM
OPEN NAME TEACH HALLOWED
TEMPATION KNOCK LEAD FORGIVE
FRIEND RECEIVE BREAD ASK