



## CALL TO CONFESSION - verse 1



1. O - pen our hearts and our minds to your love. Let us  
2. For - give us our fail - ings, our fears and our doubts. Let us



seek your grace and wis - dom.  
seek your love and com - pas - sion.

Text & tune by J. Stilger ©2024

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer. We know we do not always live as we ought: we turn away from you, from our neighbor, our true selves. We know we dim your light within us, with our pride, our self-righteousness, and our need for self-control. We know that you love us, that you do not abandon us, and that again and again you call us back to you, back to love, back to grace, back to your light. Forgive us we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**REFRAIN** Verse 2 of Call to Confession

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Matt Weiler

**All: In Jesus Christ, We are forgiven. Amen,**

## LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE AND PASSING THE PEACE

One: Each one of us has an individual story

All: **a story that is living, unfolding, and continually created anew.**

One: Our faith community has a collective story

All: **entwining our individual stories together and weaving with God's story.**

One: The Holy Spirit is guiding and shaping our story

All: **and there is much more to be discovered and lived.**

One: We dwell in a story that in the end is filled with hope, resurrection, life, and love eternal.

All: **This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

One: As we journey through Lent and seek the Easter dawn,

All: **may we dedicate our stories to being the kingdom of God here on earth.**

One: It is a story to be told and celebrated in the light of this good news, let us share the peace of Christ with our neighbors as we worship here in the sanctuary and for those who join us online.

**MUSICAL RESPONSE #2219** *Goodness is Stronger than Evil* (FWS-black hymnal)

## \*GOSPEL READING John 12:20-33

This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

Julia Librizzi

**HYMN #2233** *This is Where Children Belong*

(FWS-black hymnal)

**MESSAGE** *The Call of Love and Life*

Rev. Julie Kline

**MUSICAL RESPONSE #707** *Hymn of Promise*

(UMH-red hymnal)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (praying together)

**Our God/Father/Mother, 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.**

## CALL TO OFFERING

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** *Maggie in the Woods, The Banshee, Kesh Jig* Irish Melodies

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (praying together)

**God of Wild Love, we give you these offerings in gratitude rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. With these offerings, we give ourselves. May we live with generous hearts and with open hands. Amen.**

## OUR SHARED LIFE

**HYMN #2197** *Lord of All Hopefulness*

(FWS-black hymnal)

**SUNG BLESSING** *Irish Blessing*

Lori True

*May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. May the rain fall softly on your fields and until we meet again, may you keep safe in the gentle, loving arms of God.*

## BENEDICTION

**SENDING FORTH** *Rattlin' Bog, Kerry Polka and Britches Full of Stitches* Irish Melodies

† A Lenten practice suggestion from The Poetry of Lent devotional booklet, available at the Welcome Center or get an electronic copy. Please email [jcelorio@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jcelorio@umc-kzo.org) for more information.

Try what renowned preacher Fred Craddock calls "going marveling": an afternoon or evening walk to gather marvels (sights, sounds, shells, stones, flowers, pine cones – anything that brings to mind God's marvelous generosity!).

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, March 24

**10:00 am Worship**

**Palm Sunday**

Rev. Matt Weiler

*Mark 11:1-11*

Sunday, March 31

**10:00 am Worship**

**Easter Sunday**

Rev. Julie Kline

The Risen one

*Mark 16:1-8*

### **We're glad you are our guest today!**

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please stop by the Welcome Center.

**Child care** with trained and fully vaccinated staff is provided on the second floor for infants through three-year-olds.

**Worship activities for children** can be found on a cart outside the side sanctuary doors.

**LARGE print** Bibles and Hymnals are available at the Park Street entrance.

**Hearing assistance devices** are available at the Welcome Center.

**Today's service is being livestreamed**

**and recorded.** You can request a free copy of the DVD from the office. You can find previous worship services on our website: <http://www.umc-kzo.org/mp3.asp>.

You may view worship services on our YouTube channel: [YouTube.com/c/](https://www.youtube.com/c/KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch)

[KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch).

## Church Staff

Rev. Julie Kline..... Lead Pastor  
Rev. Matt Weiler ..... Comm. Formation  
Jacqueline Stilger ..... Director of Music  
Julia Librizzi..... Children & Families  
Thom Victor..... Technology Specialist  
Bernie Foulk..... Organist  
Drew Bolton ..... Bldg. Superintendent  
Christine Landreville ..... Office Manager  
Walt Whitfield..... Bookkeeper  
Christiane Stakely ..... Office Assistant  
Jose Celorio ... Communications Coord.  
Michael Lee..... Custodian  
Andrew Weare ..... Building Hospitality  
Ava Loncharte ..... Building Hospitality  
Jonathan Townley ..... Youth/YA Intern

## OUR MISSION

We are called to  
Experience God's love  
Celebrate God's love  
Share God's love

## OUR VISION

We are a Christ-centered community where our stories are woven with God's story.

## OUR VALUES

Love: God is Love and all creation is made in love, by love, for love.  
Community: Sacred relationship with God and one another.  
Inclusion: All identities belong and are loved in Christ.  
Justice: Restoration of equity and wholeness.

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

### **Sunday, March 17**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Lent Labyrinth  
9:00 am Bible Study in Acts - Rm 304  
10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary  
11:00 am Confirmation Class - Rm 305  
11:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
6:00 pm Faith Milestones - Arches  
6:00 pm - Small Groups  
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

### **Monday, March 18**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Lent Labyrinth  
11:30 am Prayer Group - Chapel  
1:00 pm Columbarium Team- Zoom  
5:00 pm Finance Team - Zoom  
5:00 pm Leadership Team - Zoom

### **Tuesday, March 19**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Lent Labyrinth  
9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom  
4:15 pm First Beats - Choir Room  
4:30 pm Food Pantry  
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

### **Wednesday, March 20**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Lent Labyrinth.  
9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor  
12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live  
12:30 pm Food Pantry  
3:00 pm HON - Zoom  
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Meeting - Chapel

### **Thursday, March 21**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Lent Labyrinth.  
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room  
12:00 pm Lenten Organ Recital - Sanctuary  
6:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Wesley Hall  
7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

### **Friday March 22**

### **Saturday March 23**

9:00 am Sanctuary Deep Clean

### **Sunday, March 24**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Lent Labyrinth  
9:00 am Bible Study in Acts - Rm 304  
10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary  
11:00 am Palm Sunday Brunch  
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Julia Librizzi,  
Yvonne Fulton, First Beats.

<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Organist</b>
Jacqueline Stilger	Bernie Foulk

### **Ukelele**

Kaden Seals, Evelyn Moon, Coulter Weiler

<b>Mandolin &amp; Banjo</b>	<b>Mandolin</b>
Doug Sneddon	Janet Karpus

<b>Guitar</b>	<b>Concertina</b>
Drew Strand	Bernie Foulk

### **Whistle**

Jackie Stilger

**Audio-Visual Team:** Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton,  
Thom Victor, Lucas McGinnis

**Acolytes:** Lilly Nolan & Max Newman

## INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

In our worship, we strive to witness to the wholeness of God, embracing the diversity of images of God that are found within Scriptures. We will seek to include male, female, and gender-neutral language and imagery for God, and utilize language that helps to avoid binary terms in pronouns and images of people. In our hymns and liturgy, we invite you to use pronouns that best express your practice and affirm your faith.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Adult Sunday School Opportunities.**

Bible Study in Acts: 9:00 am in room 304.

Searching for Peace in the Middle East: John Clark will lead the discussion in the Parlor.

Family Foundations: 11:15 am in Room 209.

**Faith Milestones.** A group for 3rd through 5th graders only. Faith Milestones are those firsts as we grow in our faith. Our next meeting is today Sunday, March 17, at 6:00 pm.

**Church Deep Clean:** Join us this Saturday, March 23, at 9:00 AM for a sanctuary deep cleaning session. We'll be scrubbing, polishing, and vacuuming both the sanctuary and balcony areas. Your help is essential, so feel free to come when you can and leave when you must. For details or to volunteer, contact Dawn

**Organ Recitals:** This Thursday, March 21, at noon, we welcome **Christine El-Hage Walters** Organist/Choir Accompanist, from Assumption Grotto Catholic Church in Detroit & **Michael Katopodes**, Music Director at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Warren, MI.

**Prayer Wall:** The prayer wall has two options: write on the large sheet of paper for all to see your prayers and pray along with you. Or write on a piece of paper and roll it up and place it in the prayer wall for a personal petition. This is a space to share our hearts, concerns, and aspirations with God. Whether personal or global all intentions are welcome. Frequently we feel overwhelmed by the wars that rage around the world. Let us pray for compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation particularly in the Middle East and Ukrainian/Russia conflicts, along with the many other places that war and violence are doing harm. Together may our prayers illuminate the path towards peace and understanding for all.

**Adult Mission Trip:** We invite adults of any age to join us on a mission trip to Detroit, October 3-6. We will be staying at and working through Cass Community Social Services, a Detroit-based agency connected with Cass Community United Methodist Church. For questions, or to sign up, please contact Dan Duncan.

**Palm Sunday Brunch:** The whole church is invited to a light brunch in Wesley Hall immediately following Palm Sunday worship on March 24, 2024. Many thanks to Donna Duniak for organizing this. There will be baskets by the doors of Wesley Hall to take a goodwill offering for the brunch. We hope you will join us! All are welcome!

**Lent Labyrinth:** The labyrinth will be set up in Wesley Hall from March 17 to April 1. You are invited to walk the labyrinth after worship on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between the hours of 9 am and 4pm. This labyrinth requires the removal of your shoes and can take 10-20 minutes to walk.

**Pickleball for Beginners:** Join our pickleball class at Parchment United Methodist Church, located at 225 Glendale Blvd., Parchment, MI. The class takes place on Monday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. There is no cost, just a lot of fun and laughter. Remember to bring your own water bottle and wear tennis shoes. We'll provide the rackets and pickleballs for you to use.

## 138 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

1. The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3. Per - verse and fool - ish, oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear  
 5. Thou spreadst a ta - ble in my sight; thy unc - tion  
 6. And so through all the length of days, thy good - ness

fail - eth nev - er. I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth; and where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me; and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my  
 grace be - stow - eth; and oh, what trans - port  
 fail - eth nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I

I am his, and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.  
 of de - light from thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!  
 sing thy praise with - in thy house for - ev - er.

WORDS: Henry W. Baker, 1868 (Ps. 23)

MUSIC: Irish Melody; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

ST. COLUMBA

87.87

## 2219 Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than

hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness; life is strong-er than

death. Vic-tory is ours, vic-tory is ours through him who  
Oh, vic-tory is ours, vic-tory is ours

loved us. Vic-tory is us.  
through him who loved us. Oh, us.

WORDS: From *An African Prayer Book*, selected by Desmond Tutu

MUSIC: John Bell

GOODNESS IS STRONGER

Irregular

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music © 1996 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland), admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.

2233

# Where Children Belong



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comes as part of the



wor - ship - ing throug. Wa - ter, God's Word, bread and



cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be - long.

WORDS: James Ritchie  
MUSIC: James Ritchie

RITCHIE  
Irregular

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## 707

## Hymn of Promise

*Unison*

1. In the bulb there is a flow-er; in the seed, an ap-ple tree;  
 2. There's a song in ev-ery si-lence, seek-ing word and mel-o - dy;  
 3. In our end is our be - gin-ning; in our time, in-fin - i - ty;

in co-coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but-ter-flies will soon be free!  
 there's a dawn in ev-ery dark-ness, bring-ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be - liev-ing; in our life, e-ter-ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win-ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu-ture; what it holds, a mys-ter - y,  
 In our death, a res-ur - rec-tion; at the last, a vic-to - ry,

un - re - vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

WORDS: Natalie Sleeth, 1986  
 MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1986

PROMISE  
 87.87 D

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DEATH AND ETERNAL LIFE, *see further:*

524 Beams of Heaven

304 Easter People, Raise Your Voices

655 Fix Me, Jesus

127 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

311 Now the Green Blade Riseth

504 The Old Rugged Cross

292 What Wondrous Love Is This



1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy, whose  
 2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith, whose  
 3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace, your  
 4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm, whose

WORDS: Jan Struther  
 MUSIC: Irish folk melody

SLANE  
 10 11.11 12

Words by permission of Oxford University Press



trust, ev - er child-like, no cares could de - stroy: Be  
 strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: Be  
 hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace: Be  
 voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm: Be



there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray, your  
 there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray, your  
 there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray, your  
 there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, your



bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.