

5th Sunday in Lent – March 17, 2024 – 10:30am

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Lighting of Altar Candles

Prelude -

A Word of Greeting and Welcome/Centering Words ~

Rev. Allison Mark

God has written the law of love on your heart. Gaze deeply and find God within.

Opening Hymn* - *“Christ Beside Me”* TFWS 2166

Angela Gricar

Giving God Glory As We Come To Worship

Call to Worship (L: Leader P: People)-

Traci Saruwatari

L: Why are you here?

P: I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

L: I see it! You're in the right place! This is God's house. The door is open to you.

P: Why are you here?

L: I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

P: We see that in you! You're in the right place. This is God's house. The door is open to you.

L: Let us worship God.

P: Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

Opening Prayer

Traci Saruwatari

Our souls are troubled, Holy One, until they find their rest in you. When we live in fear of our mortality, help us face the future unafraid. Write the truth of Christ's words on our hearts: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit." In our living and in our dying, draw us together with all your people. Amen.

Message for the Children (In Us All)

Rev. Allison Mark

The Word of God for the people of God

Congregational Hymn – *“Here I Am, Lord”* UMH 593

Angela Gricar

Old Testament Scripture: Psalm 119:9-16

Traci Saruwatari

⁹ How can young people keep their paths pure? By guarding them according to what you've said. ¹⁰ I have sought you with all my heart. Don't let me stray from any of your commandments! ¹¹ I keep your word close, in my heart, so that I won't sin against you. ¹² You, Lord, are to be blessed! Teach me your statutes. ¹³ I will declare out loud all the rules you have spoken. ¹⁴ I rejoice in the content of your laws as if I were rejoicing over great wealth. ¹⁵ I will think about your precepts and examine all your paths. ¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget what you have said.

L: The Word of God for all people

P: Thanks be to God

Special Music – *"Create In Me a Clean Heart"*

Faith Chancel Choir

New Testament Scripture: Matthew 18:15-22

Traci Saruwatari

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or sister. ¹⁶ But if they won't listen, take with you one or two others so that *every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses*. ¹⁷ But if they still won't pay attention, report it to the church. If they won't pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. ¹⁸ I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

²¹ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

²² Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times."

L: The Word of God for all people

P: Thanks be to God

Sermon: ~ "Wandering Heart: Teach Me"

Rev. Allison Mark

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Rev. Allison Mark

We Respond to God's grace

Offering Our Gifts ~

Rev. Allison Mark

Doxology* *"Sing My Tongue the Glorious Battle"* UMH 296 (v.4)

Angela Gricar

***Offertory – Prayer of Dedication**

Traci Saruwatari

With hearts washed clean and with spirits made new, we celebrate the joy of your salvation, O God. May the tithes and offerings we share this day reflect the law of love you have written on our hearts. May these gifts bear the fruit of your Spirit, and may they bless those who need it most. Amen.

Going Forth in God's Holy Name

Faith In Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC –

Rev. Allison Mark

Closing Hymn* ~ *“Christ for the World We Sing” UMH 568*

Angela Gricar

Commission and Blessings * -

Rev. Allison Mark

Passing of the Peace* - Postlude