

***For the love of...***

*February 25, 2024*

Announcements and greetings

*The assembly responds or joins in unison when our text is in **bold**.*

Centering words:

Come, see and be seen. Come, know and be known. Understanding gives light to the eyes and peace to the heart. Come to God, who knows you and calls you to love.

Prelude

Call to worship: Responsively

Bless the Lord at all times.

**Praise God's holy name.**

Magnify the Lord with hearts full of devotion.

**Sing of God's glory with tongues full of song.**

Seek the Lord of love.

**We will worship the living God.**

\*Opening hymn

***Lift Every Voice and Sing***

<sup>♯</sup> UMH # 519

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.**

**Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.**

**Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.**

**Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.**

**Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.**

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our people sighed?**

**We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.**

**We have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past,  
till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.**

**Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;**

**lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;**

**shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 519

Words: James Weldon Johnson, 1921; Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

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Opening Prayer: In Unison

**Open our eyes, Lord. Help us to see Jesus as he reaches out to heal our blindness. Help us to let go of all those things that keep us in darkness. This day, as your word is proclaimed, let our hearts and souls respond with joy. Transform our lives to do your will. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: **Exodus 4:10-17**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Musical Response:*

**O taste and see that the Lord is good!  
Happy are those who take refuge in God!**

<sup>1</sup> I will bless the Lord at all times;  
God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> **My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
let the afflicted hear and be glad.**

<sup>3</sup> O magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt God's name together!

<sup>4</sup> **I sought the Lord, who answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears.**

<sup>5</sup> Look to God and be radiant,  
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

<sup>6</sup> **The poor cried out, and the Lord heard,  
and saved them out of all their troubles.**

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord encamps  
around those who fear God, and delivers them.

<sup>8</sup> **O taste and see that the Lord is good!  
Happy are those who take refuge in God!**

*Musical Response*

<sup>9</sup> O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,  
for those who fear him have no want!

<sup>10</sup> **The young lions suffer want and hunger,  
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.**

<sup>11</sup> Come, O children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> **Which of you desires life  
and covets many days to enjoy good?**

<sup>13</sup> Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking deceit.

<sup>14</sup> **Depart from evil, and do good;  
seek peace, and pursue it.**

*Musical Response*

<sup>15</sup> The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
the ears of the Lord hear their cry.

<sup>16</sup> **The face of the Lord is against evildoers,  
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup> When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup> **The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,  
and saves the crushed in spirit.**

<sup>19</sup> Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

but the Lord delivers them.

**20 The Lord keeps all their bones;  
not one of them is broken.**

**21 Evil shall slay the wicked;  
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.**

**22 The Lord redeems the life of his servants;  
none of those who take refuge in God will be condemned.**

*Musical Response*

Special Music

***I Don't Know How to Love Him***

Lloyd-Webber

Piano solo: Jack Roberts

New Testament Reading: **Philippians 4:4-9**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Reading: **John 1:35-42**

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Preparation

***Near to the Heart of God***

UMH # 472

**There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,  
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.**

Refrain:

**O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,  
hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.**

**There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,  
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.**

*Refrain*

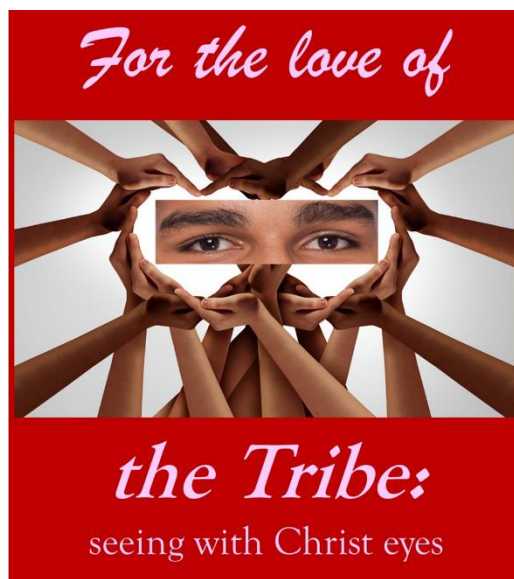
**There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,  
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.**

*Refrain*

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 472

Words: Cleland B. McAfee, 1903; Music: Cleland B. McAfee, 1903

Message



I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,  
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green:  
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God's love made them strong;  
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake, the whole of their good lives long.  
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:  
and there's not any reason, no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still;  
the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.

You can meet them in school, or on the street, in the store,  
in church, by the sea, in the house next door, they are saints of God,  
whether rich or poor, and I mean to be one too.

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 712  
Words: Lesbia Scott, 1929; Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1940

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: In unison

**We often walk in blindness, not having the ability to see others, and ourselves, as Jesus sees us. Help us to see the good, the light, the gifts and graces in others and ourselves. Help us to be healed of our blindness, gracious God. Help us to be uncomfortable with our comfortability with mediocrity. Give us courage to take risks which will result in not only our own transformation, but also the transformation opportunities for others. Forgive our stubborn insistence on living in darkness. Take our hands and lead us to the light. Amen.**

Let us pause for a moment of quiet confession.

Words of assurance:

Turn and see the light of God's love. It is lavished upon you. You have been healed and made whole in God's love.

Invitation to the Offering

*Please submit your offering as you feel lead by placing it in the plates on the altar railing, or text your gift to 833-756-0325, or on our website: [www.elyriafirstumc.org](http://www.elyriafirstumc.org).*

Offertory

Offertory Prayer: In Unison

**Mighty God, just as you restore sight to the blind and benevolence to the afflicted, use these offerings to provide refuge for the lost and mercy for those who suffer. May our gifts find those who cry out in their need and who seek you with their whole hearts. We ask this in Jesus's name,  
the name above all names. Amen.**

\*Closing hymn

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

♯ UMH # 671

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace.  
Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

**Thanks we give and adoration for thy gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of thy salvation in our hearts and lives abound;  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 671

Words: Attr. to John Fawcett, 1773; Music: SICILIAN MARINERS; The *European Magazine and Review*, 1792;  
harm. from *The Methodist Hymn and Tune Book*, 1889, alt.

*Please be seated for closing announcements and the Benediction.*

Benediction: Responsively

Your sight has been restored.

**Our lives are reformed in Christ's love.**

Take the love of God with you. Share this love with those you encounter this week. Amen,  
**and amen!**

Postlude

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable*

<sup>1</sup>UMH - *United Methodist Hymnal*

<sup>2</sup>FWS - *The Faith We Sing* (softcover hymnal)

**Worship Participants**

Preaching: Rev. Tennille Power

Liturgist: Pat Skinner

Media: David Wilm

Musicians: Evan DeJong, Jack Roberts, and the Chancel Choir

Sound room: Neal Hubbard, Bob Rice, and Cole Winslow

Ushers and Greeters: Bill Buga, Dave and Alice Kinder, and Mike Zahnke

Each week, this service is broadcast live on radio station WEOL 930 AM/100.3 FM. Today's radio broadcast is sponsored with money from the Radio Fund. Thank you to those who donate to the fund which allows us to continue our radio ministry as we share God's love with the radio audience and the community.

The altar flowers are sponsored to honor those on a spiritual journey this Lenten season.

If you have any pastoral needs or prayer concerns, please call the church office, 440.322.6622.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

440.322.6622

[www.elyriafirstumc.org](http://www.elyriafirstumc.org)

*I Don't Know How to Love Him* by Andrew Lloyd-Webber from the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*. All songs are performed under license # 673591.

# Third Street Review



**First United Methodist Church**  
312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035  
Phone: 440.322.6622  
Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

**February 25, 2024**

## **February Mission Focus:**

### ***Save Our Children***

The program provides on average 95 children in grades K-12 in Elyria with a safe place to go after school. Their mission is to enhance literacy, foster academic excellence, and nurture leadership skills among the vulnerable youth in our community. They have adopted areas of focus called the 5 Pillars: Academic Skill-building, Social Emotional Learning, Health and Wellness awareness, Community Engagement, and College & Career readiness.

Donations can be made by cash, checks (indicate **SOC** on the memo line) or online.

### ***Seeker's Class***

Are you interested in becoming a member of our church? Are you exploring what it means to be a member of the United Methodist Church? Come join our Seekers Class that will be held mid-March.

If you are interested, please call the church office at 440.322.6622 or email Pastor Tennille Power at [tennillep@elyriafirstumc.org](mailto:tennillep@elyriafirstumc.org).

### ***Happy Hour***

Join us this Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> in **Fellowship Hall** for a great meal and fellowship! Happy Hour is a luncheon held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at noon**. Come, invite others into our church family!

### ***Community Breakfast Needs***

Thank you for your continued support of this most needed ministry in our community. Praise God for the gracious faithful volunteers who make our work possible every Sunday! We continue to need **plastic cutlery**. Donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

### ***Open Sponsorship Dates***

**Altar Flower dates:**

**March 3, 10, 24, and 31**

**Cost \$22**

**Radio Broadcast dates:**

**March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31**

**Cost \$300.00 full, \$150.00 half**

Or you can simply contribute any amount to our Radio Fund!

## **2024 Commitment Cards**

If you have not already, please continue to pray, discern and return your commitment cards for 2024. We are grateful to continue the work in the community and for our neighbors. We cannot do this work without your help! Please mail or drop off the commitment card anytime!

### **Free Hygiene Store**

We are excited to have our Free Hygiene Store open for the community. A **HUGE Thank You** for the donations and the gift of time! We need to replenish the following items:

- **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- **Dish and Hand Soap**
- **Toothpaste for adults and Kids**
- **Kids toothbrushes**
- **Deodorant for Women and Men**
- **Diapers** (size 5, 6, 7)
- **Pull-ups** (size 2T, 3T, 4T, 5T)
- **Baby wash and lotion**
- **Adult Diapers** (pull on type in size M, L, XL, 2XL)
- **Feminine products** (Tampons, maxi pads)
- **Adult Bladder Pads** (Poise)
- **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet bowl cleaners)

Please place these items in the box located on the main level. Bless you! The Free Store is open on this **Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

### **Free Clothing Store**

**The Free Clothing Store is a labor of love!** We are in need of **Winter clothes**. For our community to shop with dignity we need **hangers, clothing racks and kind spirits** who are willing to donate time. Please place any kind of hangers in the bin on the main level. The store will be open on **Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> 10 AM-12 PM**, please contact the church office at 440.322.6622.

*“Genuine love is rarely an emotional space  
where needs are instantly gratified.  
To know love we have to invest time and commitment...  
‘dreaming that love will save us, solve all our problems  
or provide a steady state of bliss or security  
only keeps us stuck in wishful fantasy,  
undermining the real power of the love  
-- which is to transform us.’ ”*

~ bell hooks

## ***Scripture readings for the week:***

Sunday, February 25: **Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25;  
Mark 8:31-38; Mark 9:2-9**

Monday, February 26: **Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 1:8-12**

Tuesday, February 27: **Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 22:1-19;  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19**

Wednesday, February 28: **Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Jeremiah 30:12-22; John 12:36-43**

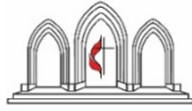
Thursday, February 29: **Psalm 19; Exodus 19:1-9a; 1 Peter 2:4-10**

Friday, March 1: **Psalm 19; Exodus 19:9b-15; Acts 7:30-40**

Saturday, March 2: **Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8**

Sunday, March 3: **Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22**





## March 2024 Daily Readings

Friday, March 1: **Psalm 19; Exodus 19:9b-15; Acts 7:30-40**

Saturday, March 2: **Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8**

Sunday, March 3: **Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22**

Monday, March 4: **Psalm 84; 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-23**

Tuesday, March 5: **Psalm 84; 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19; Hebrews 9:23-28**

Wednesday, March 6: **Psalm 84; Ezra 6:1-16; Mark 11:15-19**

Thursday, March 7: **Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Genesis 9:8-17; Ephesians 1:3-6**

Friday, March 8: **Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Daniel 12:5-13; Ephesians 1:7-14**

Saturday, March 9: **Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Numbers 20:22-29; John 3:1-13**

Sunday, March 10: **Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21**

Monday, March 11: **Psalm 107:1-16; Exodus 15:22-27; Hebrews 3:1-6**

Tuesday, March 12: **Psalm 107:1-16; Numbers 20:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:6-13**

Wednesday, March 13: **Psalm 107:1-16; Isaiah 60:15-22; John 8:12-20**

Thursday, March 14: **Psalm 51:1-12; Isaiah 30:15-18; Hebrews 4:1-13**

Friday, March 15: **Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 30:1-10; Hebrews 4:14-5:4**

Saturday, March 16: **Psalm 51:1-12; Habakkuk 3:2-13; John 12:1-11**

Sunday, March 17: **Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10;  
John 12:20-33**

Monday, March 18: **Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 43:8-13; 2 Corinthians 3:4-11**

Tuesday, March 19: **Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 44:1-8; Acts 2:14-24**

Wednesday, March 20: **Psalm 119:9-16; Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23; John 12:34-50**

Thursday, March 21: **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Philippians 2:1-11**

Friday, March 22: **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:1-9; Philippians 2:12-18**

Saturday, March 23: **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:10-16; Mark 10:32-34, 46-52**

Sunday, March 24: **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-16; Isaiah 50:4-9a;  
Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47; Mark 15:1-47**

Monday, March 25: **Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 45; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 42:1-9;  
Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11**

Tuesday, March 26: **Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36**

Wednesday, March 27: **Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32**

Thursday, March 28: **Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

Friday, March 29: **Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9;  
John 18:1-19:42**

Saturday, March 30: **Job 14:1-14; Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16;  
1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66; John 19:38-42**

Sunday, March 31: **Acts 10:34-43; Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11;  
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18; Mark 16:1-8; Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 114; 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8;  
Luke 24:13-49**

The readings can also be found on the church's website:

<https://www.elyriafirstumc.org/march-scriptures>