

MIDDLESETTLEMENTS UMC

Service of Worship

The Third Sunday in Lent * March 7, 2021

GATHERING

Welcome

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

—Joel 2:13a

Prelude

Opening Prayer

The prayer begins:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Praise

Feast of the Lord/Table is Spread

Come to the Table

PROCLAMATION

Scripture—Luke 14:1-14

Children's Sermon

Scripture—Luke 14:15-24

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

RESPONSE

Affirmation of Faith, from Philippians 2:6-11

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Christ Jesus, though being in very nature God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures for ever.

Scripture reminds us to put our trust in God and rest in peace. With the confidence of the children of God, let us pray.

We thank you Lord, for you are good.

Your love endures always.

As your people, we declare your praises.

(You are invited to name your own praises and thanksgivings)

You choose to exalt the humble, seek the lost, and desire your table to be full. You invite into your kingdom those who could never repay you and could never deserve your invitation. What are human beings that you are mindful of them? What are mortals that you care for them? But you choose to bring light, mercy, and love.

Your love endures always.

Comfort those who mourn, worry, grieve, or are lonely. Bring those who walk in darkness into your merciful light.

We trust you, Lord; **for your mercy is great.**

Grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole.

We trust you, Lord; **for your mercy is great.**

Sustain and provide for those who find themselves without food, shelter, or medical care.

We trust you, Lord; **for your mercy is great.**

Mend broken relationships, knit families and churches together, and strengthen all who are seeking ways to be faithful to you in changing circumstances.

We trust you, Lord; **for your mercy is great.**

Bless leaders and lawmakers with courage and wisdom to guide the nations into health and peace.

We trust you, Lord; **for your mercy is great.**

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

(You are invited to name those for whom you intercede)

We trust you, Lord; **for your mercy is great.**

We pray to you for the forgiveness of our sins.

(You are invited to silently confess sins that weigh upon you and patterns of sin in your life)

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

Grant us thy peace.

We trust you, Lord; **for your mercy is great.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

Praise, This Is Our God

Give, Serve, Grow

Giving is an act of worship & an expression of gratitude to God. We offer Him ourselves and the material world He has placed under our care. Our tithes and offerings become a means of spreading the gospel, strengthening disciples, and serving the needy. Online giving has been set up through a link on our website (go to the "At-Home Worship" tab of www.middlesettlements.com) or directly at <https://faithlife.com/middlesettlements/give>. Offerings may also be set up through your bank's Automatic Bill Payment or mailed to: Middlesettlements UMC/2729 Middlesettlements Rd/Maryville, TN, 37801.

*Our Prayer List: **Andi Love Lawhorn, J.B. O'Connor, Leona Mote, Carolyn Crisp; Effie Cardin**, hospitalized 3/5 with pneumonia; Kathryn Charbonneau requests prayer for her **Betty Scott** (doctors unable to determine what's wrong); the Marler family requests prayer for Whitney's-half brother-in-law **Richard McClurg** (massive heart attack 2/20); Rex & Paula Rogers request prayer for dear friend **Donna Long**, hospitalized at Blount Memorial; **Kathy Puckett**, recovering at home after being hospitalized with Diverticulitis; **Steve & Sally Jo Sullivan**, both recovering at home after recent hospitalizations; the Marcus family requests prayer for Justin's father, **Kermit Marcus** (ill); Jenna Rogers & Kate Keylon request prayer for their grandfather, **Malcolm Rhodes**; Howie & Rachel Ammons request prayer for brother-in-law, **Bruce Rudder** (battling cancer); Mary Justice requests prayer for her son, **Donnie Swanner**; Maria Carpenter Wright requests prayer for her sister **Linda** (lupus, asthma, & Meniere's Disease) and friend **Dianne** (lung cancer) and gives praise to God for healing great-nephew **Luke** (leukemia); Keith & Leslie McAmis request prayer for her sister, **Susan Philips** (chemo); Judy Goodson requests prayer for her brother **Jim Lester** (liver cancer); Bridget Jenkins requests prayer for her daughter **Holly Child** (cancer).*

For more information on serving in our church and community, contact the church office at 865.982.4799 or umc.middlesettlements@gmail.com

SENDING FORTH

Blessing

May the Almighty and Merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep you.
Amen.

MARCH 7, 2021

Worship Notes

SCRIPTURES WE READ:

SONGS WE SANG:

SERMON NOTES:

SOMETHING NEW I LEARNED:

QUESTIONS I HAVE:

HOW I CAN APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE: