

**East Bangor**  
**United Methodist Community Church**  
**February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Second Sunday in Lent  
*Our Mission: To Reach, Teach and Share God's Love*

**WELCOME**  
**PASSING OF THE PEACE**  
**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Gather to Christ, Christians, for he has given himself to make a new covenant with all of us.  
**His self-sacrifice has established the new covenant which includes all believers.**

**\*HYMN #61**

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

Come, thou almighty King,  
help us thy name to sing,  
help us to praise!  
Father all glorious,  
o'er all victorious,  
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!

Come, thou incarnate Word,  
gird on thy mighty sword,  
our prayer attend!  
Come, and thy people bless,  
and give thy word success;  
Spirit of holiness, on us descend!

Come, holy Comforter,  
thy sacred witness bear  
in this glad hour.  
Thou who almighty art,  
now rule in every heart,  
and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power!

To thee, great One in Three,  
eternal praises be,  
hence, evermore.  
Thy sovereign majesty  
may we in glory see,  
and to eternity love and adore!

**\*MORNING CONFESSIO**

God of the gospel, Christ of God, Spirit of God, forgive us if we become enamored of others, great as they are, and do not center our lives and our loyalties on the One who is your beloved son. Excuse our enthusiasms for lesser luminaries, the gods of our passing age, whose fascination and fame may distract us from following Jesus Christ with undivided devotion. Amen.

**A MESSAGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE OF ALL AGES**

“The Cross is Important”

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 17:1 – 7, 15 - 16

**17** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty<sup>1</sup>; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

<sup>3</sup> Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer will you be called Abram<sup>1</sup>; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 4:13 - 25

<sup>13</sup> It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup>For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, <sup>15</sup>because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

<sup>18</sup> Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>19</sup> Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. <sup>20</sup> Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup> The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, <sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

## CHOIR ANTHEM

“Lamb of God”  
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Paris/Larson

## CELEBRATING OUR LIFE IN COMMUNITY JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD SILENT PRAYERS PASTORAL PRAYER THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, 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.**

## **OFFERING**

**\*THE DOXOLOGY #95**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION #338**

“Where He Leads Me”

**I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
"Take thy cross and follow, follow me."**

### **Refrain:**

**Where he leads me I will follow,  
where he leads me I will follow,  
where he leads me I will follow;  
I'll go with him, with him all the way.**

**I'll go with him through the garden,  
I'll go with him through the garden,  
I'll go with him through the garden,  
I'll go with him, with him all the way.  
(Refrain)**

**I'll go with him through the judgment,  
I'll go with him through the judgment,  
I'll go with him through the judgment,  
I'll go with him, with him all the way.  
(Refrain)**

**He will give me grace and glory,  
he will give me grace and glory,  
he will give me grace and glory,  
and go with me, with me all the way.  
(Refrain)**

## **GOSPEL READING**

Mark 8:31 - 38

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

**\*HYMN OF DISMISSAL #424** “Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone”

**Must Jesus bear the cross alone,  
and all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for everyone,  
and there's a cross for me.**

**How happy are the saints above,  
who once went sorrowing here!  
But now they taste unmingled love,  
and joy without a tear.**

**The consecrated cross I'll bear  
till death shall set me free;  
and then go home my crown to wear,  
for there's a crown for me.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**