

March 7, 2021
“3rd SUNDAY IN LENT”
Liturgical Color – Purple

* Please stand in stature or in heart as you are able

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ... *LET US FOCUS OUR THOUGHTS AND OUR HEARTS ON THE ONE WE ARE HERE TO WORSHIP*

OPENING PAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Come and worship! In wonder and awe let us seek the face of God.

God invites us to come just as we are.

We come longing to experience God's embrace.

God wraps us in the loving arms of our Creator.

We come hungry to encounter the Word.

God feeds us the Bread of Life.

We come parched for renewal and restoration.

God quenches our thirst with living water.

We come weary and worn.

God shoulders our burdens and grants us peace.

Come and worship! In wonder and awe, God reveals the divine self to us.

We come as we are and are changed by God's love and grace.

Thanks BE to God!

** How Great Thou Art*

(on insert)

A RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Gracious God, we confess that we have disregarded your will for us.

We have taken your commandments and dismissed them as suggestions.

We have idolized our children, our possessions, our political leaders and political ideologies.

We have misused your name,

by invoking your support for our football teams and our national security.

We have ignored your Sabbath,

and forgotten that our opportunity to shop 24 hours a day means someone may not rest.
We have let our parents and children know that it is sometimes inconvenient to visit them.

But at least we have not murdered, committed adultery or stolen —

Except in our hearts or when no one was looking.

We have gossiped about our neighbors, spreading rumors without basis;

**And we have coveted their SUV's, the additions on their houses,
their wide-screen TVs and other tech-items.**

Holy God, forgive us.

Show us that your law is life-giving, not restrictive.

Remind us that you are God, and bring us out of slavery to our own will.

Gracious God, lead us not into temptation, that we may have no other gods before you. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. AMEN.

** Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

(on insert) (*tune of Amazing Grace*)

TIME OF PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER:

(Ecumenical Text)

**Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. AMEN.**

GOD'S WORD:

Exodus 20:1-17

(The reader says: "This is the Word of God for ALL people" ... AND ... The people respond: "Thanks BE to God")

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

"RULES FOR LIFE"

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE ...

What do God's Commandments (Rules for Life) mean to you?
Does your life reveal God's top two Commandments (Rules for Life) to others?

GREAT THANKSGIVING

(on insert)

SHARING THE LOAF AND CUP

(Ours is an "open" table ... meaning that ALL are welcome to receive the holy elements.)

* *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

(on insert)

* PRAYER FOR OFFERING OUR LIVES, OUR TITHES, AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD:

**Lord, we are so grateful for your generosity.
All that we have comes from your hand.
Use us and these gifts to help others better understand the depths of your love for everyone.
In Christ's most precious and loving name, AMEN.**

* BENEDICTION

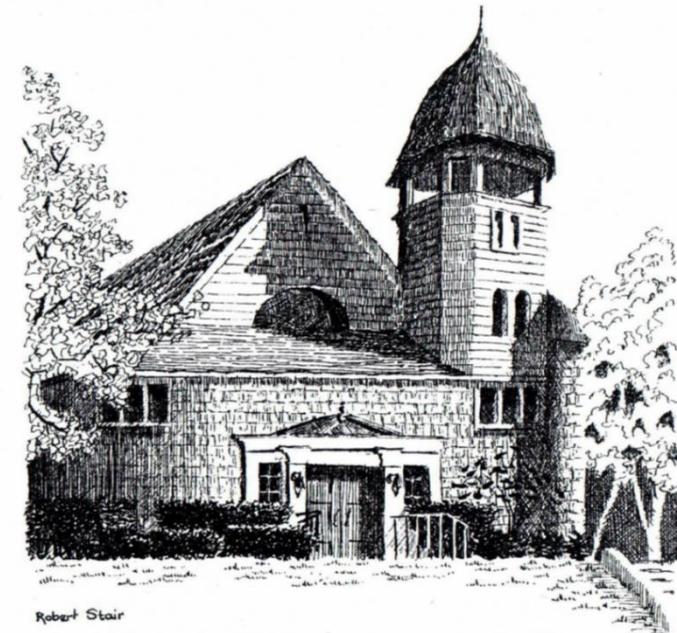
* *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

(on insert)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."*

(Psalm 122:1)



DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TODAY'S CENTERING VERSE

***"Take to heart all the words
I have solemnly declared to you this day ...
They are not just idle words for you—
they are your life."***

(Deuteronomy 32:46a, 47a)