

PRELUDE, GATHERING, *The Old Rugged Cross* 504

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS - *space for notes on insert*

*Tonight, March 3, Movie Night with light supper at Dinah Benson's.
Supper at 5, movie at 6:30 pm. Let Dinah know if you will join us."
CUMC Potluck in April?
Wednesday – Tracking Trustee matters, and fellowship, Zoom 7p.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ps. 19:1-4

*Heaven is declaring God's glory;
the sky is proclaiming God's handiwork.
One day gushes the news to the next,
and one night informs another what needs to be known.
There is no speech; there are no words;
their voices cannot be heard by us.
Yet their sound extends throughout the world;
their words reach the ends of the earth!*

**We join our witness with theirs
that God's glory may be known.**

HYMN *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* 160

PRAYER

alt from FotW

**God of Glory, it is only by the power of the Holy Spirit
that your Word can be heard in our words,
or even through the scriptures.**

**Open our ears to what you are saying to us today,
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON Exodus 20:1-17 (*Lectionary*)

GOSPEL Mark 12:28-34 (*alternate selection*)

EPISTLE Romans 12:9-21 (*alternate selection*)

CHOIR *How Great Thou Art* 77

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

alt from Ginna Bairby

**God of righteousness,
we confess that have not kept your commandments.
We declare our allegiance to other powers and principalities.
We justify our own prejudices and opinions, in your name.
We turn a blind eye to unjust economic practices,
and to systemic failures of love.
Our dishonesty and greed get the better of us.
Yet you gave us commandments not for condemnation,
but so that we might live in justice and joy.
Purify us by your righteousness and enfold us in your grace.
Reshape and purify our intentions and actions,
that our lives may begin to reflect your will. Amen.**

{silent prayers}

*We find in the words of the Apostle Paul,
"God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength."
The grace of Christ is sufficient for us.*

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

HYMN *I Want a Principle Within* 410

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - *extra space for notes on insert*

INTERCESSIONS

BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*With joy and gratitude for all we have been given,
in token of our lives, we offer our tithes and gifts to God.*

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER

Exod. 20

FotW

O Lord our God, we want to follow all your commandments—
to love only you, not worshiping the things of this world;
to love our neighbor freely,
not desiring for ourselves something they possess.
Accept these offerings, we pray,
and teach us to be generous, giving fully of ourselves
that we may truly be the body of Christ in this world. Amen.

LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

hymnal pages 15-16

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

451

PRAYER & SENDING

traditional for Lent

Beloved people of God;

*I invite you, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent
by self-examination and penitence,
by prayer and fasting, by works of love,
and by meditating on the Holy Scriptures.
May the grace, hope, peace and love of God
our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
be with us all, now and forever.*

Amen

POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>

or from Feasting on the Word (eg **FotW** - see also insert)

or from the Book of Common Prayer, (**BCP** - public domain).

or other sources as noted.



*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”
and, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

Mark 12

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

Clarksburg United Methodist Church

23425 Spire St., Clarksburg, Maryland
<https://www.facebook.com/clarksburgmdumc/>

Accompanist: Rick Beede
Choir Director: Cathy Warfield

Pastor: Rev. David Hodsdon

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Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures

As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary

Year B – Season of Lent; March 3 2024

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Scriptures

Exodus 20:1–17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

John 2:13–22

Questions for Reflection: *The gift of God's law (Exod. 20:1–17)*

John Calvin described three uses for the Ten Commandments:

a) they show us how to live before God and neighbor, and expose our sins in failing to live as God intends. b) they instruct our civic or common life, showing us how to live responsibly in the freedom God gives. c) the commandments show us how we should live because we are a people who have already received God's grace and love in Jesus Christ.

Does God's law restrict or enhance our freedom as human beings?

Morning Prayers:

God of heaven and earth, I listen today for the sound of your glory:
in the songs of birds, in easy laughter among friends,
in quiet conversations that begin the day,
in sunlight's warmth, pattering rain, or silent snowfall.

Give me ears to hear your glory in its many forms.

Give me eyes to see your glory in its many guises.

Throughout this day, I, too, will proclaim
your glory, your grace, and your love
so that I may be a part of the chorus of praise
that stretches to the ends of the earth.
In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Evening Prayers:

God of freedom, I thank you for claiming me as your own
and for setting me in the midst of the community of faith.
Today the news was filled with stories of people who do not live
according to your commandments, with grievous results.
Lives are shattered as your covenant is broken again and again.
And I struggle, too, in my own ways,
to live in faithfulness, generosity, and love.
As the day comes to an end, I pray for forgiveness for myself
and for this weary world, confident of your grace and mercy.
Send your gift of Sabbath rest, and let me sleep in peace
as, over and around me, night declares to night your power and glory.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Announcements & Notes

*ANY area where you have an interest & willingness to serve,
please let us know.*

More Calendar Notes

*"Daniel" trip to Sight and Sound, Lancaster, PA,
Tuesday, July 9, 3 pm show.*

Let Judy Pontius know if you'd like to go by March 15.

Tickets will then be ordered.

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Prayer Concern Notes

***What NEW thing would you like to see
the church try to do next year?***