

Dear Church family,

We will have In-person and Online Worship on **Sunday, March 12, 2023, 10 am.**

Online Worship

Website: www.littlefallsumc.org

YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCOzxLc7UQjeMNprjm9u8gtQ

You can join Online Worship using your home phone or cell phone.

Call 646-876-9923; enter the Meeting ID 917 9067 6301; and enter the Passcode 139139.

Sunday Scriptures

Psalm 95:1-11 and Mark 15:33-39

Today's Message! 'The Soldiers'.

If you have any concerns and joys and want to share them with the congregation, and ask the church to pray on Sunday, please let me know! You can email, call, or text me. Or you can submit your prayer concerns and joys here: www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer

Your generous financial support is significant and appreciated very much.
We have continued our ministries with your support.

You can support God's ministry in three ways:

1. Put your offerings in the plates at the Offering Station at the in-person Worship
2. Mail your offerings and tithes to the church office 139 Main St. Little Falls, NJ 07424
3. Make online donations at www.littlefallsumc.org/donation

Again, we appreciate your generosity very much.

Please see the bulletin for other announcements!

Have a good day! & See you on Sunday!

Pastor Jin

Little Falls United Methodist Church

Third Sunday of Lent

March 12, 2023 - 10 am



139 Main Street, Little Falls, NJ 07424

Office Phone: (973) 256-0993

Website: www.LittleFallsUMC.org

Email: Info@LittleFallsUMC.org

***“A Welcoming Community of Faith, Hope,
Mission and Outreach Sharing Christ’s Love”***

“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World”

**“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship.” (Romans 12:1)**

Called to Praise

#Prepare your heart and body for Worship

Greeting & Announcements

- We have ‘**In-Person**’ & ‘**Online Worship**’ on **Sunday, March 12, 2023, 10 am.**
- You can join our online worship via YouTube or Facebook. Type “Little Falls United Methodist Church” in the search window on Youtube or Facebook. Please use the link below to join in Online Worship.
YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCOzxLc7UQjeMNprjm9u8gtQ/
- You can join the Online Worship by your phone. Call (646)-876-9923 and enter the Meeting ID, 917 9067 6301, and Passcode 139139.
- **Prayer Concerns & Joys** – If you would like to share your concerns and joys with the congregation, please email Pastor Jin (jkim@littlefallsumc.org) or complete the online form, www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer.
- **Altar Flowers** – Thank you **Cheryle Mitchell** for providing the flowers for Sunday Service. If you would like to offer the altar flowers, please contact Janet (973) 896-8936 or ladyteddy@aol.com.
- **Fellowship Time after Worship** – Thank you **Linda Timms & Cheryle Mitchell** for hosting the coffee hour. Let us enjoy a good fellowship time every Sunday after Worship. Please help us with hosting the coffee hour. The Sign-up board is on the table in the Narthex. Please contact Cheryle or Kathy F. if you have any questions for the coffee hour.
- **2023 Lenten Series** - The theme of Lent this year is **"Witness at the Cross"**. We will consider the witnesses of the people who were with Jesus at the cross: The Bystanders and Scoffers, The Other Victims, The Soldiers, The Beloved Disciple, The Women, & Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Join us at Sunday Worship **February 26 - April 2** during the Lenten Season for the message. Let us listen to their witnesses and find the meaning of Jesus' cross for us.
- **Young Adults and family group meeting** – **Sunday April 2, 2023,** after coffee Hour.
- **2023 Lenten Study** – **Every Wednesday, March 1 - April 5,** 7pm, Lee Lounge. The Theme is **"LUKE: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws"** that is written by Adam Hamilton. Please sign up for the study. Contact Lynn for details.
- **The Post Confirmation Class** – **Sunday, April 23, 2023,** 5 pm, Lee Lounge
- **Treasured Memories** – “Treasured Memories” is a grief group for those who have lost their loved ones. The ongoing meeting gathers every **2nd Wednesday of the month** in

Lee Lounge at 7 pm. Contact Allison for details (973) 800-4152.

- **Kids For Christ** - KFC is a Fun Thursday night program for Children (K-6th) that is held on the **first and third Thursday from 5pm to 6:30 pm**. We began our new season 2022-23. This program is open to all children! **The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2023.**
- **SAVE THE DATE!** The Ladies Tea & Auction will be held **Saturday, April 29**, at 12:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Tickets will go on sale on **Sunday, March 19**.
- **Easter Baskets** - The UMW is collecting items to fill 50 Easter baskets to be donated to Oasis- a Haven for Women and Children located in Paterson. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex on Sunday, March 5th, with items due by **Sunday, March 19**. Please contact Melissa Downing for additional information.
- **The UMW Spring General Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, March 26**, following Worship Service in Fellowship Hall. During that which we will be assembling the Easter baskets.
- **The UMW is collecting Pasta & Sauce** (no glass jars) during the months of March & April on behalf of CUMAC & Oasis. Donations can be placed on the marked table in the Narthex.
- **The Unity Circle** is collecting gloves, hats, scarves, and mittens to fill our snowman box. Please see Betty Caceres for more information. **Thank you for your support!**
- **Online Donation** – Online donation is available now. Please visit the church website and click 'Donation.' The link is www.LittleFallsUMC.org/donation.
- **Shoprite Gift Card** – To purchase a Shoprite gift card, contact Pete (973) 595-5765 or detroit50@aol.com.
- **Kohl's Gift Card** – To purchase a Kohl's gift card, contact Allison (973) 800-4152.
- Your financial support and generosity are greatly appreciated and essential for our church ministry and mission. Please consider sending your tithes and offerings to Little Falls UMC (139 Main St. Little Falls, NJ 07424). You can send your offerings and tithes to the church every week. Or you can send offerings and tithes for a month with a check. Thanks again for your generosity!
- **LFUMC FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED** - Many families depend on the Food Pantry on a regular basis. The Pantry needs the following non-perishable items; canned vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, adult/children's cereal, pasta & sauce, instant potatoes/rice, tuna, chicken, sardines, fruit, apple sauce, juice, and granola bars.
- **SOCKS FOR SOULS - Do your feet get cold?** Please help Unity Circle to provide new or gently used socks to the homeless. There is a constant need. Please drop off your socks in the large white sock in the Narthex.

- **Ongoing Collection** - UMW collects postmarked stamps, can pull tabs, and the front of greeting cards (No Hallmark). Items are donated to different charities and organizations.

‡Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

All: We are learning to follow Jesus.

Leader: The way is long, and we are thirsty.

All: We seek the living waters of Jesus.

Leader: We feel the weight of scarcity warring with hopeful whispers of abundance.

All: We need the living waters of Jesus.

Leader: We wonder if God will provide us with what we need, *here* and *now*.

All: As God gives us the living waters of Jesus, so God calls us to quench the thirst and meet the needs of our neighbors.

Leader: Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

All: We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! Amen.

‡Praise Song

Shout To The Lord

Darlene Zschech

Verse

My Jesus my Saviour
 Lord there is none like You
 All of my days I want to praise
 The wonders of Your mighty love
 My comfort my shelter
 Tower of refuge and strength
 Let every breath all that I am
 Never cease to worship You

Chorus

Shout to the Lord
 All the earth let us sing
 Power and majesty
 Praise to the King
 Mountains bow down
 And the seas will roar
 At the sound of Your name
 I sing for joy
 At the work of Your hands
 Forever I'll love You
 Forever I'll stand
 Nothing compares to the promise
 I have in You

Children's Message

David and Goliath – Part 2

1 Samuel 17:1-51

King Saul gave his armor to David, but it was big and heavy. David wasn't used to wearing armor. David went to a nearby stream and picked up five stones. He stood before Goliath. The giant laughed at him, but David didn't care. He said, "I come before you in the name of the Lord who rules over all." David put a stone in his sling and ran toward the giant. Then he let the stone fly. It hit Goliath's forehead, and he fell to the ground! The Philistines saw that their hero was dead. They ran away.

‡Hymn of Prayer

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

UMH 474

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession

Prayers of the People (Response: God, in Your Mercy, hear our prayers.)

Lord of living water, pour your mercy on us. Wash us clean and make us true disciples. Help us move from the paths of selfishness and stubbornness, to the channels of hope and peace. Enable us to place our whole trust in your love. As we have brought the names of those near and dear to us to your throne of grace in prayer, remind us again that you also hold us dearly and offer to us your healing grace. Keep us strong and give us courage to serve you in all that we do. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

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.

Called to the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today.

All: Amen

OT Lesson

Psalm 95:1-11

- ¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
² Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.
³ For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.
⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.
⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
⁷ for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if only you would hear his voice,
⁸ “Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,
⁹ where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did.
¹⁰ For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.’
¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’”

This ends the OT Lesson.

Let us turn to the Gospel Lesson. Please stand, if able.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 15:33-39

The Death of Jesus

- ³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).
³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”
³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.
³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.
³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

The Soldiers

Rev. Jin Kook Kim

Good morning, Church Family! I hope you had a blessed week in God’s love and grace. Also, I hope your Lenten journey goes well by meditating on Jesus’ sacrificial love on the cross. I am sharing with you the worship series, “Witness at the Cross” during Lent. I hope we find our own perspectives and meanings on Jesus’ sacrificial love when we consider the witnesses who were at the cross and their perspectives. Last Sunday, we considered the two criminals who were on their

cross next to Jesus when Jesus was on the cross. One of them wanted to be saved, not die. Jesus who could save him was next to him but he mocked Jesus rather than asking Jesus to save him. Church family, I hope we are not like him who doubted Jesus' power and didn't believe Jesus as the savior. I hope we don't mock Jesus saying, "Help me if you can." Jesus has the power to save us and help us. On the other hand, the other criminal believed that Jesus was innocent, the savior so he asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus would be in the kingdom of God. He pleaded to save him and Jesus promised him to be with Jesus in the kingdom of God. Church family, we have the faith that the one had. He had faith in Jesus. He was sure that Jesus had the power to save him, so he asked Jesus to save him with the confidence of Jesus' power. I pray we have his perspective on Jesus which is that Jesus is our savior and Jesus has the power to save us.

This morning, we will consider another witness at the cross. He is a centurion, the soldier. Before we consider the Centurion, let us sing the hymn, "Were you there" Verse 3.

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

There were soldiers who carried out the execution. One of them was a centurion. The word centurion was a title, not a person's name. Centurions were Roman army officers. They were leaders of an army unit of 100 soldiers. They were usually literate. The pay was good. Their work included both administrative and judicial roles. The centurion saw all that Jesus died on the cross. And when Jesus died, he said, "Truly, this man is God's Son." What can you see from him? What perspectives on Jesus did he have? The words of the centurion were his witness and profession. He was just an army officer who was one of them who carried out the execution. We don't know his name or background but what we can see is that he came to believe in Jesus as the son of God. We don't know what made him believe that Jesus is the son of God. Is it because darkness came over the whole land although it was about three o'clock and the ground trembled, and the rocks were split? We don't know. However, something made him believe and profess that Jesus was God's son when he saw Jesus' death on the cross.

Church family, do you believe that Jesus is the son of God? What made you believe that? Do you believe that because you have any evidence or proof? Is there any incident or happening that made you believe that Jesus is God's son? Some of us may have something that makes us believe that. And, some of us may have nothing but just you came to believe. Either way, I believe it is the Holy Spirit who leads us to faith in God. Either you have something, some moments, or some events that made you have faith or you have nothing special but just came to believe that one day, I believe the Holy Spirit worked in you. So either way, if you believe that Jesus is God's son, you are blessed because you have faith in God. If not, please let me know, and I will pray with you that the Holy Spirit works in you to give you faith.

We don't know who the centurion came to believe in Jesus. However, it is very interesting when we compare him to the religious authorities, priests, Pharisees, and Scribes. The centurion was not Jewish, he would be a Roman or a person who was from other countries who the Jews called gentile. When the religious authorities accused Jesus and made Jesus be executed, and saw his death, they didn't get to the faith in Jesus. They didn't believe that Jesus was the son of God and the Messiah although they were at the cross. They were very proud of themselves as the chosen people by God but they couldn't recognize Jesus, the son of God and the savior. They had

knowledge of the Bible, practiced God's law in their lives, and waited for the savior for a long time but they couldn't have faith in Jesus. However, the centurion, a gentile, had faith in Jesus when he saw Jesus' death in the same place.

There is a similar story in the Bible. When Jesus came to Capernaum, a centurion came to Jesus. This centurion was not the one who was at the cross. He asked Jesus to heal his servant who was laying at home paralyzed. When Jesus said, "I will come and cure him," he replied, "I believe that you just speak the word here and my servant will be healed." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith." As we read the Bible, people usually brought the sick to Jesus or asked Jesus to come to their place where the sick person was. They believed that Jesus had the power to heal the sick so they did. However, the centurion went more than that. He believed that Jesus could heal the sick although the sick were not before Jesus. He was not Jewish but had strong faith. He was a gentile, but he had a firm and strong faith in Jesus' power and healing. The gentile had a firm strong faith in God more than the Jews had.

Little Falls Church family, are we like the religious authorities? I hope not. I hope we are not those who have been in the church for a long time but don't find nor know any meaning of Jesus' death on the cross. This is because if we are like them, we miss the great joy of salvation, forgiveness, and a new life in God. I pray that we are not like those who have been in the church for a long time but don't find any relevance between Jesus' death on the cross and themselves. This is because if we are like them, we miss the greatest blessing that God has given us in our lives.

Church family, I pray that the Holy Spirit guides us to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the savior that God sent to us if we don't get to the very faith yet. I pray that the Holy Spirit makes us believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and to save us if we don't realize that yet. I pray that our knowledge of Jesus, his love and grace, for us in our head, comes down to our heart so we feel it fully if we don't get there yet.

Church family, Jesus' death on the cross for us is the foundation of our faith. and we have Lent every year to find or remind ourselves of the meanings of the cross. Let us keep going on our Lenten journey together. I pray all of us find our own perspective and meanings of Jesus' cross for each of us while we have this journey. This journey is communal and personal. Let us invest our time and energy to find the answer. Let us give our time to God fully to grow in Christ during Lent. As I asked and encouraged, please take a moment to meditate on Jesus' cross, holding the stone and looking at the cross on it. Read the book of the Gospel because it will help us to see Jesus' life and teaching and to find the meaning of his cross. Join in the Sunday Worship and join the Lenten Study. The message and the study will help us with our journey.

Church family, let us go on the Lenten Journey with humble hearts and prayers and receive God's special blessings that God gives us in this special season. Amen!

Called to Share

Response to Our Generous God

‡Doxology Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

‡Prayer of Dedication

All: God, our provider, in Christ you give us a spring of pure water that overflows to eternal life. Your love and hope fill our hearts, so we want to worship you in Spirit and truth. Open our eyes to see the places in this neighborhood where our church's ministries could reach new people. Direct our gifts and offerings for your purposes, so that our community will become like a field ripe for harvest. We ask this through Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Called to the World

‡Closing Hymn

Blessed Assurance

UMH 369

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blessed,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

‡Benediction

Rev. Jin Kook Kim

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen