

Dear Church family,

We will have In-person and Online Worship on **Sunday, March 5, 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 42:6-11 and Luke 23:32-33, 39-43

Today's Message! 'The Two Criminals'.

***We will have Holy Communion during Sunday Worship on March 5th.
The elements will be given to those who are in the Sanctuary.
Online Folks, please prepare a piece of bread (or a Cracker) and a small
cup of juice (or Water) as the elements of Holy Communion before worship.***

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

Second Sunday of Lent

March 5, 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 5, 2023, 10 am.**
- **Holy Communion** – We will have Holy Communion during **Sunday Worship on March 5th at 10am.** If you plan to join us Online service, please prepare Holy Communion elements, Bread (or a cracker) and Grape juice (or water).
- 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 **Corpuz Family** for providing the flowers for Sunday Service **In Honor of Adam**. 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 **Unity Circle** 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.
- **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.
- **Young Adults and family group meeting** – **Sunday March 5, 2023**, after coffee Hour.
- **The Post Confirmation Class** – **Sunday, March 5, 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.**
- **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: Come, all who need help!

All: Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Come, all who desire blessing!

All: Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.

Leader: Come, all who long for salvation!

All: Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat what seems,
Each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

Refrain

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain

Children's Message**David and Goliath – Part 1****1 Samuel 17:1-51**

The Philistines were enemies of God. Their army came to fight King Saul's army. A giant soldier named Goliath yelled, "Bring out your best soldier to fight me!" If your strongest soldier defeats me, we will be your slaves!" he boomed. "If I defeat him, you will be our slaves!" King Saul's soldiers were afraid. They did not want to fight the giant. Meanwhile, Young David was taking food to his brothers. They were soldiers in King Saul's army. When David reached the camp, he saw Goliath. David heard the giant's challenge. "I am not afraid to fight the giant," said David. King Saul called for David and told him, "You cannot fight the giant. You are too young." David replied, "God will be with me."

‡Hymn of Prayer***Give Thanks*****TFWS 2036**

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks To the Holy One;

Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong"
Let the poor say "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession

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

Gracious God, We, your children, are here to praise you and give thanks to you! As we gathered here, we shared our joys and concerns with one another with prayerful hearts. We offer to you concerns for family, community, and nation; and yet we don't really expect that anything will change. We are unwilling to change ourselves, and so change for the world appears a wispy dream. Bring your presence powerfully to us. Convince us of the hope that rests in you alone. Please lead us to pray to you with confidence and gratitude. Lord, be with us and help us. Give us your healing, peace, love, and grace. We are yours and you are the only one who we can rely on. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. 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 42:6-11

6 My soul is downcast within me;
therefore I will remember you
from the land of the Jordan,
the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.
7 Deep calls to deep
in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers
have swept over me.

8 By day the LORD directs his love,
at night his song is with me—
a prayer to the God of my life.

9 I say to God my Rock,
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?”

10 My bones suffer mortal agony
as my foes taunt me,
saying to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”

11 Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

This ends the OT Lesson.

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

Gospel Lesson

Luke 23:32-33, 39-43

32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. **33** When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? **41** We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

The Two Criminals

Rev. Jin Kook Kim

Good morning, Church Family! I hope you had a blessed week in God’s love and grace last week. We are in Lent and meditate on Jesus’ sacrificial love for us during Lent by considering the perspectives of witnesses at the cross. Last Sunday, we considered the bystanders and scoffers. Passers-by didn’t find any relevance between them and Jesus, so they didn’t care for Jesus’ death on the cross. Jesus died on the cross for them as well as all the people in the world but they didn’t know that nor want to know that. There are many people like them in the world. I pray you and I are not like them. Pharisees and Scribes didn’t believe in Jesus. They challenged Jesus’ identity saying, “if you are the Messiah, come down from the cross by yourself.” They were like Satan who

challenged and tested Jesus in the wilderness. They didn't want to believe Jesus was the Messiah who God promised because Jesus was short in their expectation in their sights and perspective. They didn't believe Jesus as their savior because Jesus was not powerful although they wanted and waited for the powerful savior. Church family, I pray we are not like them who judge Jesus by our own standards and who don't accept Jesus as the savior from the perspectives of the Pharisees and Scribes.

Now we begin to consider another witness at the cross, the two Criminals. I want us to sing together the hymn, "Were You There" the second verse before we consider the perspectives of the criminals on Jesus.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Two others were nailed also when Jesus was nailed on the cross. We don't know their name or for what they were executed next Jesus. However, they were there and died with Jesus on their cross. They were criminals according to one's words. He said, "We indeed have been condemned justly." They knew their faults and they knew that they deserved the crucial execution. They were in the same situation. They were on the cross next to Jesus but their perspectives on Jesus were totally different. Let's see their perspectives one by one.

First, one of them said to Jesus, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" What do you think? What perspective on Jesus did he have? Who was Jesus to him? To him, Jesus was a criminal who had been sentenced to the same execution. In his eyes, like him, Jesus was powerless and could not save Jesus-self. Like Pharisees and Scribes, he challenged Jesus' identity, but his purpose was different from theirs. He wanted not to die. He challenged Jesus not to believe in Jesus but to save him. He wanted Jesus to use power to save him if he was the Messiah.

There are people like him in the world. They think like them Jesus is powerless so Jesus cannot help them. Or they want to use Jesus' power for their own things. They don't have an interest in the faith in Jesus but just need someone who can help them with great power. How about us? Do we have the same perspective? Do we think that Jesus is powerless in our lives? Do we need Jesus only because we want to use his power to gain what we want?

Another criminal who was nailed on the cross next to Jesus heard the criminal's words to Jesus and he said, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." What perspective on Jesus did he have? He knew that Jesus was innocent, and Jesus was not a criminal like them. In his eyes, Jesus could help him to take him into the kingdom of God although Jesus was on the cross next to him. We don't know his background or how to know about Jesus and the kingdom of God. He might hear Jesus' teachings when he taught people. He might see Jesus' miracles and wonders when Jesus healed people, casted evil spirits, or resurrected people. We don't know how he knew about Jesus and his identity. However, based on his words, we see that he believed that Jesus had the power to take him to the kingdom of God. So, he asked Jesus to remember him when he came in the kingdom of God.

There are people like him in the world. They know they are sinners and deserve punishment for their sins. They know that they are powerless, and cannot save themselves. They believe that Jesus is innocent and Jesus is whom God sent. And, they believe that Jesus has the power to save them so they ask Jesus to remember them and save them. Do we have the perspective? Do we admit that we are sinners? Do we think that we cannot save ourselves? Do we believe that Jesus has the power to save us?

The two criminals were in the same place in the same situation. They were on the cross next to Jesus. Both wanted to be saved. However, their perspectives on Jesus were different and their approaches to Jesus asking for Jesus' help were different. One criminal asked for Jesus' salvation, mocking Jesus because he was not sure whether Jesus was his savior or not. Maybe he leaned on the thought that Jesus was too powerless to save him. However, the other one had faith in Jesus. He believed that Jesus had the power to save him if Jesus wanted so he pleaded to Jesus to save him.

Church family, I pray we remember our roots, and where we are from. I pray like the criminal who pleaded Jesus to save him, we remember our own life history and admit we are sinners who deserve punishment. I pray we believe that Jesus has the power to save us and that our attitude to Jesus is not mocking but pleading for his love and grace.

Again, I encourage you to meditate on Jesus' death on the cross every day in Lent to clarify what perspectives on Jesus, and his sacrificial love on the cross we have. What does Jesus' death on the cross mean to us? How do we live out the meaning of Jesus' cross in our lives? We will keep going on our Lenten journey. I hope we find our own answer before we finish this Lenten journey. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND HOLY COMMUNION

Response 1

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Response 2

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Response 3

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 of unwavering love, you have held nothing back in your love for us, not even your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love, and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to you. As we dedicate our offerings to you, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance you have called us to be. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Called to the World

‡Closing Hymn

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

UMH 349

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in His wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
in the light of His glory and grace.

‡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