

Dear Church family,

We will have In-person and Online Worship on **Sunday, February 26, 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 22:6-8 and Mark 15:29-37

Today's Message! 'Bystanders and Scoffers'

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

Sunday Worship Service

February 26, 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, February 26, 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** –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 **Kim Family** 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.
- **Coffee and Bible** – We will have a four-week Bible Study every **Thursday from February 9 to March 2**, 1pm, Lee Lounge. We will read the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament in the Bible and have a conversation while having coffee. Jung Ae will lead the study. Sign up online or contact Jung Ae (cclim92@gmail.com). Please join us!
- **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.
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** – Thank you to those who worked at the dinner and to those who joined us!
- **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 2, 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!**
- **Stewardship Campaign for 2023** - Thank you for your pledges for the 2023 Church ministry. We are still accepting the pledge cards. Please give us yours if you have not given us yours yet. Our pledges mean we give God our first fruits, not leftovers. Our pledge is a token of our faith that we are stewards of all our resources that we are given by God. Our pledges are for God's ministry through the church ministry that changes one's life and the world with God's love and grace. As a pastor of LFUMC, I give thanks to all of you for your commitment and sacrifice using your spiritual gifts and talents and finance. We can continue God's ministry when you participate in it and support it with your presence, gift, prayer, service, and witness. Let's glorify God through our whole being!
- **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: For those who feel Christ near,

All: May we not turn away from the discomfort of the journey ahead.

Leader: For those who feel as far from Christ as the desert is from the ocean,

All: May we find Christ in the wilderness with us.

Leader: For all of us who stumble and fall in our silence, indifference, and lack of generosity,

All: May we reach for the hand of Christ, who raises us up to continue on the journey.

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

To God Be the Glory

UMH 98

To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our victory, when Jesus we see.

Children's Message

Lent

‡Hymn of Prayer

O How He Loves You and Me

TFWS 2108

Verse 1

Oh how He loves you and me
Oh how He loves you and me
He gave His life
What more could He give
Oh how He loves you
Oh how He loves me
Oh how He loves you and me

Verse 2
Jesus to Calv'ry did go
His love for sinners to show
What He did there
Brought hope from despair
Oh how He loves you
Oh how He loves me
Oh how He loves you and me

Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession

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

Gracious God, we remember that Jesus walked on a painful journey to save us. We praise you and worship you for your grace. We give thanks to Jesus, our Lord, for his sacrificial love. Please lead us to remember Jesus when we face our hardship and difficulty in our lives. Please lead us to give thanks to Jesus when we have your healing and peace. Let us experience your salvation in our lives. Heal us and comfort us. Provide us our needs and lead us to share with others what we have. We are yours so we ask to give us your compassion and peace. Lord, have mercy on us and all the people in the world. In the name of Jesus, 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 22:6-8

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.
⁷ All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.
⁸ “He trusts in the LORD,” they say,
“let the LORD rescue him.
Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him.”

***This ends the OT Lesson.
Let us turn to the Gospel Lesson. Please stand, if able.***

Gospel Lesson

Mark 15:29-37

²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!” ³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! ³² Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

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.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

Bystanders and Scoffers

Rev. Jin Kook Kim

Good morning, church Family, I hope you had a blessed week in God’s love and grace last week. Last Sunday was a joyful and glorious day for us because the two children were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We considered the meaning of baptism. We professed at our baptism that we follow Jesus who saved us, his will and desire rather than our own interests, benefits, and will. Let us remember our baptism. Let us keep living out the life after baptism seeking God’s will and desire and following Jesus’ teaching and life.

Lent began on Ash Wednesday. And Lent is the time for us to meditate on Jesus’ sacrificial love. What does Jesus on the cross mean to you? Have you ever thought about that seriously? All of us know that Jesus died on the cross for us. What does that mean to you personally? Each person has different perspectives on Jesus’ death on the cross and interprets that in their own ways although we read or listen to the story in the same Bible. Likewise, there were people when Jesus was crucified on the cross. each of them had different perspectives on Jesus’ death on the cross and

interpreted his death in their own ways. We will consider the perspectives of people who were at the cross from the story in the Bible from today to Palm Sunday for six Sundays during Lent. Through this message series, I pray that we, each of us, find our own perspectives and consider the meanings of Jesus' death on the cross.

Who was at the cross? Can you guess who was there? Jesus, his mother, and other women, John, soldiers, priests, etc. There were many people at the cross who saw Jesus' death on the cross. Today, we will consider bystanders and scoffers who were at the cross when Jesus died on the cross.

In today's scripture, we see that there were passers-by. Passing by Jesus, they said, "Aha, you who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" What do you think? What perspective on Jesus did they have? How did they interpret Jesus' death on the cross? What did Jesus' death mean to them? They didn't find any relevance between them and Jesus. They neither like nor hate Jesus' death on the cross. They didn't have any interest in Jesus but just passed by Jesus on the way to their destination. If they were interested in Jesus' death either they were in favor of Jesus' death or not, they would not pass by the cross but follow Jesus from the trial to the mountain. For them, Jesus was no one. They didn't have any relationship with Jesus. What they knew is Jesus' words mentioned the temple and they thought he was not a good person. Maybe they thought he was bragging because who could build the temple in three days? They didn't know about the point of Jesus' words although Jesus mentioned that, thinking of his death and resurrection. For them, Jesus was a liar and a bluffer. Jesus' death was not important to them. His death was not relevant to them at all. Although they were at the cross, the historic moment and place, they just passed by Jesus, saying a few words.

Like passers-by, there are many people who don't find any relevance between Jesus and themselves in our local community and in the world. Many people have heard about the story of Jesus, his death, and resurrection in the country, but Jesus' death is not important to them or relevant to them. How about us? Is Jesus' death important to us, each of us, in our lives? Is Jesus' death on the cross relevant to us, each of us?

There were other bystanders: Chief priests and Scribes. When the passers-by mocked Jesus, they joined in mocking Jesus, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." What do you think? What perspective on Jesus did they have? How did they interpret Jesus' death on the cross? What did Jesus' death mean to them? They regarded Jesus as a criminal who insulted God and mocked God saying he was the Son of God, and the king of Israel. They put Jesus on the cross, pushing and forcing the officer of the government. And now, their tone is like this, "if you are the Messiah, the king of Israel, come down from the cross. Prove yourself. Prove your identity as the Messiah. Then we will believe you." What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, if you are the Messiah, do this? Do you remember the words that Satan used when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness? Satan said, "If you are the son of God, change this stone to bread. If you are the son of God, jump down from this mountain." Satan challenged Jesus' identity as the son of God and now Chief priests and scribes were challenging Jesus' identity. They didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the son of God, the king of Israel. Jesus was short to reach their expectation of the Messiah they wanted. They wanted the Messiah who had the power to save the nation. However, Jesus didn't look like the Messiah who they were waiting for. They were saying, "Prove your power, then I will believe you." "Prove your identity by coming down from the cross by yourself so that I may believe that you are the Messiah." In their sights and thoughts, Jesus deserved the crucial

death on the cross because he mocked God saying he was the Messiah and the son of God. Jesus' death was not meaningful to them at all because he was not the Messiah that they expected. They didn't want the powerless Messiah in their lives.

Some people in the world say that God does not exist when they are in trouble. They think God is useless because God doesn't do what they want. For them, Jesus is powerless and Jesus cannot affect anything in their lives. How about us? Do you know when Christians leave God? Christians leave God when they feel Jesus doesn't save them from their life troubles. They throw out their faith when they see Jesus doesn't help them. They say, "God if you do this, I will believe you. God if you do this, I will follow you." Jesus' death on the cross that brings God's salvation to us is a huge event and meaningful but they don't see that. Aren't we asking for other things that we want from our own interests and benefits?

Church family, what perspective on Jesus' death on the cross do we have? How is Jesus' death on the cross relevant to us, each of us? Who are we? What relationship with Jesus do we have? What does Jesus' death on the cross mean to us? Let's try to find our own answers to the questions during Lent. 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: In the hour of his temptation, when Jesus hungered, he knew from where his sustenance came: "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Lord, from the abundance of your grace, your word has provided all that we need. All that we have is yours. Receive the offering of our hands and the gratitude of our hearts. In the name of our Savior we pray. Amen.

Called to the World

‡Closing Hymn *I Stand Amazed in the Presence* UMH 371

Verse 1
I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene
And wonder how He could love me
A sinner condemned unclean

Chorus

How marvelous how wonderful
And my song shall ever be
How marvelous how wonderful
Is my Saviour's love for me

Verse 2

For me it was in the garden
He prayed not My will but Thine
He had no tears for His own griefs
But sweat drops of blood for mine

Verse 3

In pity angels beheld Him
And came from the world of light
To comfort Him in the sorrows
He bore for my soul that night

Verse 4

He took my sins and my sorrows
He made them His very own
He bore the burden to Calvary
And suffered and died alone

Verse 5

When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see
'Twill be my joy through the ages
To sing of His love for me

#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