

Dear Church family,

We will have In-person and Online Worship on **Sunday, September 24, 2023, 10am.**

**Online Worship**

Website: [www.littlefallsumc.org](http://www.littlefallsumc.org)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@lfumc](http://www.youtube.com/@lfumc)

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**

**Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Matthew 20:1-16**

**Today's Message! 'Because God Concerns'.**

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](http://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](http://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**

**September 24, 2023 - 10 am**



**139 Main Street, Little Falls, NJ 07424**

**Office Phone: (973) 256-0993**

**Website: [www.LittleFallsUMC.org](http://www.LittleFallsUMC.org)**

**Email: [Info@LittleFallsUMC.org](mailto: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, September 24, 10am.**
- 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/@lfumc](http://www.youtube.com/@lfumc)
- 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](mailto:jkim@littlefallsumc.org)) or complete the online form, [www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer](http://www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer).
- **Altar Flowers** – Thank you **Melissa Downing** for providing the altar flowers for **Marilyn Downing’s birthday**. If you would like to offer the altar flowers, please contact Janet (973) 896-8936 or [ladyteddy@aol.com](mailto:ladyteddy@aol.com).
- **Fellowship Time after Worship** – 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 about the coffee hour.
- **Prayer Meeting** - We will have our Prayer Meeting in **the Chapel at 1:30 pm.** Meeting Dates on **October 4, November 8, and December 6.** Terrie and Ken will lead the meeting. Please keep this prayer meeting in your hearts before our Lord, that we are open to his guidance and faithful to follow through.
- **Coffee and Bible** – We will have Bible Study every **Thursday, September 14 to November 16**, at 1 pm, at Lee Lounge. We will read the ***Book of Revelation (Part 2)*** in the New Testament in the Bible and have a conversation, having coffee. Jung Ae will lead the study. Sign up online or contact Jung Ae, [cclim92@gmail.com](mailto:cclim92@gmail.com). Please join us!
- **Young Adult & Family Gathering** – We will have a Young Adult and Family Gathering on **Sunday, September 24, at the parsonage after Fellowship.**
- **Church Wide Yard Sale** - We will have a Church Wide Yard Sale on **Saturday, September 30.** The date is changed due to the schedule change for the Town-wide Yard Sale. The drop off date will be announced.
- **Post Confirmation Meeting for Youths** – **Sunday October 15** at 5pm in Lee Lounge.

- **SAVE THE DATE! – Baked Potato Dinner, Saturday, November 4.**
- **Treasured Memories** – “Treasured Memories” is a grief group for those who have lost their loved ones. The ongoing meeting gathers every **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month** in Lee Lounge at 7 pm. Contact Allison for details (973) 800-4152.
- **Kids & Youths For Christ** – The 2023-2024 Season of Kids & Youths For Christ will begin at 5 pm on **Thursday, September 21**. Kids & Youths For Christ is a program for Kindergarten to grade 12 of Christian education and fun activities. K.Y.F.C. will get together every first and third Thursday from **September 21, 2023 to June 6, 2024**. All Students are welcome!
- **Online Donation** – Online donation is available now. Please visit the church website and click ‘Donation.’ The link is [www.LittleFallsUMC.org/donation](http://www.LittleFallsUMC.org/donation). 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!
- **Shoprite Gift Card** – To purchase a Shoprite gift card, contact Pete (973) 595-5765 or [detroit50@aol.com](mailto:detroit50@aol.com).
- **Kohl’s Gift Card** – We will sell Kohl’s Gift Card until it is sold out. We will not reorder Kohl’s gift cards due to the change of the policy of the gift card usage.
- **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: Open your hearts to God’s loving mercy.

**All: Lord, come into our hearts this day.**

Leader: Having received God’s mercy, bring that love to others.

**All: Lord, be with us as we reach out to others in compassion.**

Leader: Feel your spirits filled with the goodness of God.

**All: Lord, we thank you for the many blessings which you pour into our lives.**

**AMEN.**

**‡Praise Song      Blessed Be Your Name**

**Worship & Song 3002**

Verse 1

Blessed be Your name  
In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name

Verse 2

Blessed be Your name  
When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed be Your name

Pre-Chorus

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll  
Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord  
Still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 3

Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's all as it should be  
Blessed be Your name

Verse 4

Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name

Bridge

You give and take away  
You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say  
Lord blessed be Your name

**Children's Time**

**Jonah and the Big Fish**

Jonah was a prophet of God. One day, God told Jonah, "Go to the big city of Nineveh. Tell them to stop doing bad things." But Jonah ran away. He did not want to go to Nineveh. Instead he got on a boat to sail across the sea. God sent a big storm to stop Jonah. The sailors on the boat were afraid. They thought the boat was going to sink! Jonah told the sailors, "My God has

sent this storm. If you throw me into the water, the sea will become calm again.” So the sailors threw Jonah into the raging sea. Instantly, the sea became calm. Just then, Jonah saw a big fish coming! Gulp! The fish swallowed Jonah. For three days and nights, Jonah was inside the fish. He prayed to God, “Please forgive me.” Then God told the fish to spit Jonah onto dry land. God told Jonah a second time, “Go and tell the people of Nineveh to stop doing bad things.” This time, Jonah obeyed God. The people in Nineveh were sorry for doing bad things, so God forgave them.

### **‡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.)**

Lord, your blessings abound in our lives and we lift our voices in gratitude for these lovely gifts from you. We also lift our voices as our hearts cry out our concerns for those who are ill, who mourn, who feel lost. We offer to you both our joys and concerns, so often intermingled in our lives. Be with each of us and for those whom we name with our voices and in our hearts. Lord, you have heard our cries and our shouts of joy. Make your presence known to us again through the love and forgiveness of others as we have loved and forgiven them. 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**

**Jonah 3:10-4:11**

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

### **Jonah's Anger**

**4** But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>3</sup> And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup> The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

### **Jonah Is Reproved**

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

***This ends the OT Lessons.***

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

### **Gospel Lesson**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

### **The Laborers in the Vineyard**

**20** "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup> They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take what

belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

**Because God Concerns**

**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, we considered being kind and loving others. We, as Christians, cannot choose to be kind to others and love others or not because God calls us to love everyone. God has been kind to us, and God has loved us, and God wants us to be kind to others and love others. Do you remember the three principles to be kind to others and love others? First, be merciful, just as our Father, God, is merciful. Second, treat others as you would like to be treated. Third, overcome evil with good. Please remember these and let us follow God's will by being kind and loving others. Also, Allison, Kathy, and Ken gave us the "Be Kind" calendar, which helps us to practice being kind. Please participate in the campaign to practice our faith!

We have heard God's words, "Love your enemy," many times. We know the will of God, which is not easy to observe. Have you ever thought about why God wants us to love our enemy? Do you know why God calls us to love our enemy? We can find one of the answers in today's scripture reading, the Book of Jonah.

Jonah was a prophet who delivered God's words to people. In today's scripture reading, Jonah got angry at God. Can you believe that God's prophet got angry at God? The reason that he got angry makes us surprised. Jonah was angry because God saved the people of Nineveh rather than destroyed them. It is good that God saved people. However, Jonah, God's prophet, became angry at God because of God's good work.

Jonah had a reason for being angry at God. It was because the people of Nineveh were Jonah's enemy and Jonah's country, Israel's enemy. Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria that threatened and trespassed Israel. Because of the invasion of Assyria, Israel was almost perished and subjected. As an Israelite, Jonah had experienced that tragedy, so he didn't want to go to Nineveh to give them a chance to repent when God called him to go to Nineveh and deliver God's message. God's message was to let them know their wickedness. Jonah knew God's intention of sending him to the people of Nineveh and delivering the message that their wickedness had come up before God. God was giving them a chance to repent of their sins and to be forgiven by God. Jonah knew God very well. He said, God, "You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment." Yes, God is gracious and merciful.

Jonah knew God's plan, but Jonah didn't want them to be forgiven. However, they repented before God when they heard God's message, and God changed God's mind, so God didn't destroy them or punish them. Jonah saw that, and he became angry at God for God's goodness to the people of Nineveh. He couldn't understand why God gave them the chance to repent and be saved because they were bad people who almost destroyed Israel, the people of God.



Don't we feel like Jonah? We wish the best for good people. We don't understand the success and well-being of bad people. We think that bad people should be punished for their wrongdoings. We feel bad when we think God doesn't do anything to bad people.

God wanted to teach him why God gave them the chance to repent, and saved them, so God made him experience an event. The angry Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself. He sat in it under the shade and was waiting to see what would become of the city. God appointed a bush and made it grow over Jonah to give shade over him. Jonah was very happy for the bush. On the next day, God removed the bush with warmth and wind. Jonah lost the shade, and the sun beat down on his head, making him faint, and he got angry about the bush. God asked, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

God says, "You care for the bush, a small thing. I concern and care for people and animals that I created and breathed my breath for their lives." The people of Nineveh were the bad people in Jonah's sight, and they were the enemy of Jonah and Israel. God saw their wrongdoing also. However, God's approach was totally different from Jonah's. God cared for them because they were also God's creatures. They were also God's children, although they sinned before God and people. God wanted to give them a chance to repent and be saved by God.

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. God has always been like that, not only to them but also to Israel. How many times did Israel sin before God, and betray God by serving other gods, idols? Numerous. It is hard to count all such cases from the Bible. God had always been merciful and gracious; that was why Israel still existed at that time.

Although the people of Nineveh were the enemy of Israel and bad people, God still loved them and tried to save them from evil. This is God's heart, which Jonah couldn't understand at all.

Church family, Jesus called us to love all people, even our enemies, because all people are created by God and all people are God's children. As God is gracious and merciful to us, God is gracious and merciful to others. As God forgives us over and over again, God wants to forgive others, even our enemies, so God gives them the chance to repent and turn away from evil. Is God wrong? No, God is good and faithful to everyone. The merciful and gracious God wants us to love all, even our enemies because God loves them, cares for them, and concerns them as God does for us. Let us ask God to help us have God's heart. Let us pray to God for having God's compassion, love, grace, and mercy, which have changed our lives and led us in our faith and life journey.

Whenever we become angry about bad people, let us remember this story of Jonah and remind ourselves that all people are God's children whom God cares for and concerns and loves so much. Whether we like it or not, we are brothers and sisters in God's household. As a parent, God wants us to love and care for each other and to be kind, gracious, and merciful to each other. Let our arms widen and try to hold all people in our arms. This is God's call for us! 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: Generous God, you have blessed us with so much. May the offering we bring today be an act of praise that drowns out the noise of our complaining. Take these gift and cause them to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us. May it find its way to bring comfort to your children who have little or nothing; and when that happens, may it be joy for your eyes and ears. In Christ, we pray. Amen.**

*Called to the World*

**‡Closing Hymn                      Great Is Thy Faithfulness                      UMH 140**

Chorus  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning  
New mercies I see  
All I have needed  
Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Lord unto me

Verse 1  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
O God my Father  
There is no shadow  
Of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not  
Thy compassions they fail not  
As Thou hast been  
Thou forever wilt be

Verse 2  
Summer and winter  
And springtime and harvest  
Sun moon and stars  
In their courses above

Join with all nature  
In manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness  
Mercy and love

Verse 3  
Pardon for sin  
And a peace that endureth  
Thy own dear presence  
To cheer and to guide  
Strength for today  
And bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine  
With ten thousand beside

**‡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