Sunday, March 16, 2026 – 9:30 a.m. Second Sunday in Lent

TODAY'S FOCUS: **PENITENCE**. Jesus turns the tables on the Pharisees, telling them it is not him, but rather Jerusalem who is in danger.

PRELUDE — Blaine Lee

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST — Lin

*OPENING HYMN

UMH #145 "Morning Has Broken"

- 1. Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them springing fresh from the word!
- 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where His feet pass.
- 3. Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play. Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day!

*CALL TO WORSHIP — Bonnie Clark

One: Children of God, when you are surrounded on every side by shadows that frighten and voices that deride and confuse, what do you say?

Many: God is our light and our salvation! Whom shall we fear?

One: When threats bombard you from every corner, stealing the security and peace you long for, what do you say?

Many: God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

One: When anxiety and loneliness overwhelm and you do not know who or what to trust any more, what do you say?

Many: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

One: Because God knows our suffering. God makes a home among us, welcoming us to come home to God and one another.

Many: Come! Let us worship God who hides us in the day of trouble and conceals us together under the cover of the tent of Love.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2024.

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

HYMN TFWS #2233 "Where Children Belong"

CHILDREN'S STORY — Sharon Goldade

SPECIAL MUSIC — Choir "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

SCRIPTURE: Luke 13:31-35 — Bonnie Clark

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

MESSAGE "The Road Is Long" Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN UMH #451

UMH #451 "Be Thou My Vision"

- 1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art; Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2. Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, and I thy true son, thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.
- 3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise; Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou and thou only, first in my heart, high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4. High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

OFFERTORY — Bill Smith & Eric Presnall "This World Is Not My Home"

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #94

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Bonnie Clark

ALL: Loving God, our shelter and hope, as we walk through this holy season, we come to you with hearts open to your grace. In our giving, may we reflect the love that sustains us, and may we lift one another up in times of need and vulnerability. Use these offerings to bring comfort to the weary and hope to the brokenhearted, just as you draw near to us in our struggles. Strengthen us to be a source of light and love in this world, reflecting your compassion in all we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER — Lin

All: 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.

*CLOSING HYMN

UMH #383 "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" (vs 1-4)

- 1. This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, Time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.
- 2. For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then, Can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.
- 3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.
- 4. Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

*BENEDICTION — Lin

POSTLUDE — Blaine Lee

Prelude/Postlude—Blaine Lee Accomp.—Anneke Toomey Special Music — Choir Offertory—Bill Smith & Eric Presnall Song Leader—Janice Bachmann
Violin — Rae Ann Norell Organ — Betsy Foushee
Liturgist — Bonnie Clark Children's Message— Sharon Goldade