

MUMC At-Home Worship: March 21, 2021

Would you believe that it's already the last "normal" Sunday of Lent? Next week is Palm Sunday and the week after we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead! As we enter these last days of preparation, I pray that God might strengthen our resolve and open our hearts that when the Easter sun finally breaks through, we might be fully prepared to shout our praises to the highest heavens. Thank you for coming with us on this Lenten journey and worshipping with us today! ~ *Pastor Dillon*

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

Lord, help us use this Lenten season to draw near to you. Strip away all that distracts us and open our eyes to see you anew. Refresh our weary hearts to beat with your love and compassion. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *O How I Love Jesus*, United Methodist Hymnal #170 [watch/listen here](#)

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:2-10

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflect:

1. Today's scripture reading comes six days after last week's passage where Jesus told his disciples that he would suffer, die, and be resurrected. What might be the narrative purpose behind pointing out the six-day timeline here? How might it have changed the disciple's experience in this story to have Jesus' earlier words about his upcoming suffering ringing in their ears?
2. Jesus' transfiguration seems to catch the three disciples by surprise, leaving them terrified and speechless – or, in Peter's case, speaking when it would be better to be silent. What was your last experience of awe that stopped you and left you without words? Why might this event have had such an impact on you?
3. Even after their glimpse of heavenly glory and Jesus' earlier reference to his death and resurrection, these three disciples are mystified by the idea that Jesus might rise from the dead. How might their confusion help shape how we look ahead to Easter? How have your Lenten practices this year impacted how you anticipate the resurrection?

Hymn: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, United Methodist Hymnal #526 [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine*, United Methodist Hymnal #585 [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer: Holy God, we ask that you would lead us to the mountaintop where we can see your glory but that you would also direct us back down into the world. May these glimpses of the divine mystery transform how we live even when all we can see is the everyday world around us. Amen.

(Blow out the candle)

O How I Love Jesus

United Methodist Hymnal #170

1. There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:

O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!

2. It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]
3. It tells of one whose loving heart
can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part
that none can bear below. [Refrain]

"O How I Love Jesus" words are by Frederick Whitfield, 1855; music is a 19th cent. USA melody; both are in the public domain.

Mark 9:2-10 (CEB)

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain where they were alone. He was transformed in front of them, and his clothes were amazingly bright, brighter than if they had been bleached white. Elijah and Moses appeared and were talking with Jesus. Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, "Rabbi, it's good that we're here. Let's make three shrines—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He said this because he didn't know how to respond, for the three of them were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from the cloud, "This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Human One had risen from the dead. So they kept it to themselves, wondering, "What's this 'rising from the dead'?"

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
United Methodist Hymnal #526

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.
2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” words are by Joseph M. Scriven, 1855; music is by Charles C. Converse, 1868; and both are in the public domain.

This Little Light of Mine
United Methodist Hymnal #585

1. This little light of mine,
I'm goin' a let it shine,
this little light of mine,
I'm goin' a let it shine;
this little light of mine,
I'm goin' a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
2. Everywhere I go,
I'm goin' a let it shine,
everywhere I go,
I'm goin' a let it shine;
everywhere I go,
I'm goin' a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
3. All through the night
I'm goin' a let it shine,
all through the night
I'm goin' a let it shine;
all through the night
I'm goin' a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

“This Little Light of Mine” words and music are an Afro-American spiritual; music is adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1987. Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House