



**COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

REACH, GROW, SEND WITH GOD'S LOVE

**February 21, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent**

Prayers for all of us during this time we are physically separated one from another.

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Riva

Silent Meditation *(Let us all be in silent meditation as the candles are lit)*

Prelude

“By and By”

arr. Bradley Sowash

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, Beloved! Let us worship!

People: We are gathered to worship the One in whom we place our trust!

Leader: God, who does all things well, is here! God is among God's people!

**People: God is merciful, and God is kind! Together, we have come to praise the One
Who keeps covenant and decrees! Let us worship!**

Hymn #3045

“Down by the Jordan”

- v. 1 Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
preaching a message the people found bold and surprising.
“God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live! Surely God's new day is rising!”
- v. 2 There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation;
“Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?”
“No!” John replied. “He who is mightier than I judges and offers salvation.”
- v. 3 Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,
taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove! Your work began in those waters.
- v. 4 Here in this Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.
Freed and forgiven we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it? This is God's sign!
This is how God says, “You're mine!” Let's take the good news and share it!

Opening Prayer

Rod Bruns

God of storms and rainbows, God of rain and sunshine, God of all creation we worship and adore you. We gaze in wonder at the beauty of your creation and marvel at stormy skies transformed with the vibrant colors of a rainbow. Like Noah and his family, we praise you for this everlasting sign of your love and care for the whole creation in your desire to preserve and not destroy life. And at Jesus' baptism, the sky again revealed your love when you identified him as your beloved Son, strengthening him with the same Spirit who empowers and strengthens each of us. For all these assurances of your love for us and for the whole creation, we praise and worship you, O God, in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

Children's Moment

Rainbows and Promises

Scripture Mark 1:9-15 (NRSV) Rod Bruns

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Gift of Music "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" Afro-American Spiritual
Women's Quartet: Naomi Jones, Joanie Anderson, Stacy Johnson, Kari Trench

Meditation "Our Baptism...Our Identity" Pastor Riva

Offertory Music "Solace" Scott Joplin

Offertory Prayer Pastor Riva

ALL: Righteous God, we mark these early days in the Lenten journey with reminders of your covenant with your people. In your judgement, you sent upon creation the great flood – yet you saved a faithful remnant. You followed with a covenant not to use the flood again. As we prepare to offer our gifts to you, we are reminded that we have been spared from judgment by the one, your son, our Savior, who took on our guilt and bore our judgement. May gratitude for his sacrifice move us to offer not only money, but our whole being. In Christ, we pray. Amen

Centering Meditation Pastor Nancy

Lord's Prayer

Our (Creator/God/Mother/Father*) in heaven, Holy is your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**Please use whichever name connects you deeply to the Divine.*

Hymn #521 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

- v. 1 I want Jesus to walk with me. (walk with me) (2x)
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord
I want Jesus to walk with me. (walk with me)
- v. 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me. (walk with me) (2x)
When my heart is almost breaking, Lord
I want Jesus to walk with me. (walk with me)
- v. 3 When I'm troubled, Lord, walk with me (walk with me)
When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord,
I want Jesus to walk with me. (walk with me)

Benediction Pastor Riva

Postlude "Corrente" Antonio Vivaldi

Worship Participants

Reader: Rod Bruns

Gift of Music: Naomi Jones, Joanie Anderson, Stacy Johnson,
Kari Trench

Worship Team

Lead Pastor: Pastor Riva Tabelisma

Teaching Elder: Rev. Dr. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud

Music: Dan Ritter

Audio & Video Recording: Andy Bixler/James Bordewick/Les Johnson

Video Editing: James Bordewick/Riva Tabelisma

Centering Prayer

Bell

God of all creation,
Skies, seas, mountains and rivers,
We praise you for your presence throughout all places.

Bell

God of the living and the dead, of the ashes and the oil,
We turn to you in humility and repentance.
This first Sunday in Lent we join with Jesus on the dusty road to Jerusalem.
We know that eventually our deaths lie before us.
No one can evade those mysteries of time and space in which we offer up our last breath unto your Spirit.
Sorrow or surprise--none of us can predict what each day will bring.
We go to sleep at night, hoping that with the sunlight we rise to another day.
Our lives are so much like clay vessels, we can so easily chip and break.
And yet in your love, in your healing possibility, we find our wholeness and yield our lives to your serenity.

Bell

God of all creation
We pray for those this week who were caught unaware of the danger of freezing ice and snow.
For those without power, without water, without time to mourn loved ones because of the immediate need to clear up debris and devastation, God, be with their hearts and hands.
We continue to pray in this pandemic time for those testing positive and coping with virus symptoms.
We pray for researchers and scientists tracing the impact of variants and for health workers seeking to provide as much access as possible to vaccines.
For those of us still waiting, and for those anticipating being with loved ones and friends, we pray for patience and hope that our communities will be well served with equity and good faith.
We remember families with children and youth and their teachers and school administrators, who are all making important decisions.

Bell

Gracious God, may our eyes see all people as you see them--not a mirror to see only ourselves, but a loving vision that truly sees others and knows their worth, that all your people can see themselves represented in the work, play, mission and ministry of your Church.
Please fill our hearts with love so that there is no room for hate.
Fill our minds with understanding so that there is no room for fear.
May we behold others with wonder so we may see uniqueness and not strangeness.
So that we may love, understand and enjoy our fellow siblings, to your glory.

And now we join together in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples as we speak these words for a new day:

Lord's Prayer

Our (Creator/God/Mother/Father*) in heaven, Holy is your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Rev. Linda Cheek, organized by Rev. Bich Thy (Betty) Nguyen, Multicultural and Advocacy Ministries Developer, Mountain Sky Conference

*Suzanne K. Beckley, from **Race and Prayer: Collected Voices Many Dreams** edited by Malcolm Boyd and Chester L. Talton (Morehouse Publishing, 2003), 164.*

Coming up this week:

Sunday, February 21

- 9:00 a.m. [Adult Sunday School \(Zoom\)](#)
- 10:00 a.m. [Worship – Worship Broadcast \(FB\)](#)
- 11:00 a.m. [Zoom Fellowship](#)
- 7:00 p.m. Children’s Sunday School

Wednesday, February 24

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Book Study – John Wesley Room

Sunday, February 28

- 9:00 a.m. [Adult Sunday School \(Zoom\)](#)
- 10:00 a.m. [Worship – Worship Broadcast \(FB\)](#)
- 11:00 a.m. [Zoom Fellowship](#)
- 7:00 p.m. Children’s Sunday School

You are invited! Anyone feeling moved to join in the book conversations with Bishop Michael Curry’s book *Love is the Way: Holding onto Hope in Troubling Times*, please contact Pastor Nancy, nvictorinvangerudoi@hamline.edu to join a group—Wednesday mornings 9:30 a.m. at church, or Sunday mornings 9 a.m. on Zoom.

Church Gift Shop: If you wish to buy items from the church gift shop, contact Pat Good (phone 651-348-6688). These items can be picked up on Wednesday mornings at 11 A.M.

Be part of the worship service: Email Pastor Riva: leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org for details.

Loving People and Planet in the Name of God: Engaging the Local Church:

5 part series Feb 28, Mar 4,7, 11, & 14 from 6-8 p.m. Central Time. Cost: \$15.

This workshop will prepare you to understand creation care and climate justice in the Wesleyan Tradition; to recognize environmental concerns and solutions; to incorporate creation care into your worship; and to exercise environmental stewardship in the life of your congregation and community. It will focus on practical approaches to greening your buildings, your grounds, your ministry, and your witness.

Five 2-Hour Sessions:

- Our Theological Grounding
- Climate Crisis and Creation Justice: Connecting the Dots
- God’s Good Gifts: Called as Stewards and Prophets
- What Can Churches Do?
- Your Green Team, Your Plan

The primary text will be *CLIMATE JUSTICE: A CALL TO HOPE AND ACTION* edited by Pat Watkins and used in the 2016 & 2017 United Methodist Women’s Mission U curricula. You may be able to borrow a copy from an attendee to Mission U. If not, provide your mailing address to bobdowns@sbcglobal.net no later than 15 Feb 2021 and we will send you a paperback copy.

More information and a link to Register [Here](#).

Tech support ministry: If you need help in checking out your electronic devices in order to participate in our virtual service, send us (office@communitymethodistchurch.org or leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org) a note and we can send someone to come check it out for you (following safety guidelines and protocol).

Emergency Phone Number: If you need to contact the pastors for an emergency that cannot wait until the office phone is checked, we have added an emergency phone number: 612-757-7115. This is a cell phone that goes to the pastor on call.

Giving Options:

Electronic Giving has two options. One is using the app **Give+** on your smartphone (Android or iPhone), or via the church website. Check out the videos at: <https://communitymethodistchurch.org/online-giving/>. Otherwise, mailing in a check works great (950 Gould Ave NE, Columbia Heights, 55421).



Our Vision

*We are an urban, intergenerational, inclusive,
and welcoming Christian fellowship woven
into the fabric of our community.*

Community UMC's

Statement of Reconciliation:

Community United Methodist Church of Columbia Heights believes that we are all children of God, individuals of sacred worth, created in God's image with our many differences, and that God loves all people. We recognize that God's love is not limited by boundaries. Therefore, we welcome and affirm people of all ages, races, ethnicities, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, physical capabilities, or mental abilities.

We believe that prejudice, hatred, or discrimination directed toward any individual or group is contrary to the life, spirit, and teaching of Jesus Christ. We have vowed to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression. Therefore, we shall work to eliminate prejudice and discriminatory practices within ourselves and our community, and to show God's grace.

We proclaim ourselves a Reconciling Congregation and welcome all who seek a relationship with God.

Adopted November 3, 2019

Our Staff

Lead Pastor	Pastor Riva Tabelisma
Teaching Pastor	Rev. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud
Ministers	All the Congregation
Office Manager	Martha Bentley
Music Director	Dan Ritter
Bell Choir Director	Karen Schneider

Church Office Phone: 763-788-9009

Emergency/Pastor Contact Phone Number: 612-757-7115

Pastor Riva Tabelisma's email:

leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org

Pastor Nancy Victorin-Vangerud's email:

nvictorinvangerud01@hamline.edu

Office Email: office@communitymethodistchurch.org

Visit us online at www.communitymethodistchurch.org
or find us on Facebook