

**FIRST COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**  
**AT 10:30 a.m. (online)**

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

*join us at:*

<http://meet.google.com/vbn-wdjp-msm>

*Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your journey of faith,  
you are welcome at First Community UMC.*

*\* As an inclusive community, we invite you to sing & confess your faith in the language that you feel comfortable.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Please join us for today's **Virtual Coffee Hour**. To participate, stay in the meeting room after the service and when instructed to do so, unmute your microphone.
- The **Church Leadership Team** will meet on **Tuesday, February 23 at 7:30pm**. [To attend the Church Leadership Team meeting, click on this link](#)
- On **Wednesdays, February 24 through March 31 at 7pm-8pm**, Pastor De La Rosa will be facilitating an online **Lenten Bible Study** series. She will be joined by Luci, our Music Director to combine music history with our Lenten lessons. [To attend Lenten Bible Study, click on this link.](#)
- **Contacting Pastor De La Rosa:** Please feel free to call, text or email Pastor De La Rosa to plan a prayer and care meeting with her *or* for any pastoral emergencies.
- **Serve-One-Another Ministry:** If you need help because you are unable to leave your home *or* if you are healthy and willing to help others, please email us.
- You may mail in or drop off **offering** at the church (55 Otis Street, Medford).
- **Sunday Bulletin Announcements:** To submit a church-related announcement for the bulletin, please email details to Kathy at [fcumc02155@yahoo.com](mailto:fcumc02155@yahoo.com) by Wednesday at 5:00pm.

**During the week ahead, please pray for these friends:**

February 21 – Barbara DeFlorio & William DeFlorio  
February 22 – Rose DeGaudio & Pam Demattia  
February 23 – George & Karen DiDomenico  
February 24 – Courtney DiDomenico & David Dismas  
February 25 – Gabriel & Valerie Donadio  
February 26 – Aaron & Laurie Ellies  
February 27 – Josette Elysee & Thess Elysee  
February 28 – T.J. Elysee & Jo Elysee

Website: [www.FirstCommunityMedford.org](http://www.FirstCommunityMedford.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/firstcommunityumc/](http://www.facebook.com/firstcommunityumc/)

**Church Staff**

Pastor: Cristian De La Rosa  
Hours: Mon & Fri 10:00-2:00  
Options to Meet: in Church Parlor, by phone or via Zoom  
Cell: 540-550-9251 | Email: [cdlrosa@bu.edu](mailto:cdlrosa@bu.edu)  
Music Director: Luci Rexroad  
Pastoral Leadership Intern: Pastor Uchenna Awa  
Computer Tech Intern: Ana Maria Rodriguez  
Children's Education Intern: Sandra Barrios

Church Administrator: Kathy Aluia  
Hours: Mon & Thurs 9:30-12; Fri 8:00-1:00  
Office: 781-396-5436 | Email: [fcumc02155@yahoo.com](mailto:fcumc02155@yahoo.com)

*Thank you for joining us. Please use these quiet moments  
to center yourself and prepare for worship...*

**PRELUDE** <sup>1</sup>

“As the Deer”

-Martin J. Nystrom

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Awa, Worship Leader

**CALL TO WORSHIP** <sup>2</sup>

Leader: Come!

**All: Let’s worship God, who makes and keeps covenant.**

Leader: Come!

**All: See the sign of God’s promise in rainbow and rhythm.**

Leader: Come!

**All: Let’s worship Almighty God! Hallelujah!**

**COMMUNAL PRAYER** <sup>3</sup> (*in unison*)

God,

There’s a lot of water out there!

There’s water that you call us from,

nurtured us in,

fed us through,

wrapped us up in,

and water that when the time was just right

released us to newness,

released us to life,

released us to know the experience of pain.

We wait on you,

God who controls the water.

We wait!

We wait for the rivers to become calm again.

We wait for the streams of peace to drench our feet,

our feet as we go forward

knowing our steps are ordered by you.

God,

The water is wide,

but your grace to handle it

is so much wider!

Be with us, God, in the water;

be with us, we pray.

In the only name worthy of such praise,

we pray. Amen!

**CHILDREN’S MOMENT**

Sandra Barrios

**HYMN UMH 269** <sup>4</sup>

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Lord, who throughout these forty days<br/>for us didst fast and pray,<br/>teach us with thee to mourn our sins<br/>and close by thee to stay.</p> <p>2. As thou with Satan didst contend,<br/>and didst the victory win,<br/>O give us strength in thee to fight,<br/>in thee to conquer sin.</p> | <p>3. As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,<br/>so teach us, gracious Lord,<br/>to die to self, and chiefly live<br/>by thy most holy word.</p> <p>4. And through these days of penitence,<br/>and through thy passiontide,<br/>yea, evermore in life and death,<br/>Jesus, with us abide.</p> <p>5. Abide with us, that so, this life<br/>of suffering over past,<br/>an Easter of unending joy<br/>we may attain at last.</p> |
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**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

“Honoring the Voices of the Struggle”

Pastor Awa

**READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE:**

Psalm 25:1-10

Pastor Awa, Worship Leader

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

**READING FROM THE GOSPELS:**

I Peter 3:18-22

Pastor De La Rosa

For the word of God in scripture,  
for the word of God among us,  
for the word of God within us,  
**thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

“Promises and Covenants as Signs for Our Times”

Pastor De La Rosa

**HYMN** <sup>5</sup>

“Once for All, God Came From Heaven”

1. Once for all, God came from heaven, kneeling down in Jesus Christ.  
Through God's gift, we were forgiven! We received eternal life.  
Once for all, God took on suffering, cleansing our unrighteousness.  
Who can understand this offering? We have all been truly blessed!
2. Once for all, Christ entered prison, freeing those awash in sin —  
There he made his proclamation; there he called us home again.  
There he loved God's wandering children, bringing hope where hope was lost;  
Once, to welcome us to heaven, Jesus died upon the cross.

*(Hymn continued next page)*

3. See the sign of our salvation! Feel the water, cool and fine.  
Know the joy of celebration! Taste the gifts of bread and wine.  
Hear the words, "You are forgiven!" Once for all, Christ made us new.  
God, in Christ, you gave your kingdom. May we all now live for you.

### **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS & PASTORAL PRAYER**

Gracious God, **hear our prayers.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father [God/Creator], who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom [kin-dom], 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 [kin-dom],  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Pastor Awa, Worship Leader

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.

*-Genesis 9:8-17*

### **OFFERTORY**

“Lead Me, Lord”

-Samuel Sebastian Wesley

### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise [God] all creatures here below;  
praise [God] above, ye heavenly host; praise [Creator], Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Pastor De La Rosa

**HYMN UMH 399**

**“Take My Life and Let It Be”**

1. Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.
2. Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.  
Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.
3. Take my will, and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor De La Rosa

**POSTLUDE & ONE  
LICENSE MESSAGE**

**“Rejoice, the Lord Is King” (DARWALL’S 148<sup>th</sup>)**

-John Darwall



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<sup>2</sup> Valerie Bridgeman Davis, *The Africana Worship Book for Year B*, Discipleship Resources, 2007, p. 56.

<sup>3</sup> Inspired by Genesis 9:8-17 and Mark 1:9-15, [www.umcdiscipleship.org](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org)

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