

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

February 28, 2021

Second 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.
- Students at the seminary are collecting winter coats and boots for international students. Donations are appreciated and can be left at the parsonage or church office. For more information, contact Pastor Awa at ujawa@bu.edu.
- At **7pm-8pm on Wednesday, March 3**, our **Lenten Bible Study** series will continue each Wednesday through **March 31**. Pastor De La Rosa will facilitate and be joined by Luci Rexroad, our Music Director, to combine music history with our Lenten lessons. [To attend the Lenten Bible Study, click on this link](#)
- **Trustees** will meet online at **1pm next Sunday, March 7**. A link will be sent later this week.
- **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).

During the week ahead, please pray for these friends:

February 28 – T.J. Elysee & Jo Elysee
March 1 – Heiko Enderling & Judith Aberdeen
March 2 – Jazmine Enderling & Connery Enderling
March 3 – Peg Faulkner & Amy Fillebrown
March 4 – Kellie & Scott Fillebrown
March 5 – Sara Finley & Stephanie Finley
March 6 – Kia Finley & Maleah Finley
March 7 – Liz & Richard Grzela

Website: www.FirstCommunityMedford.org
Facebook: 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
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

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephanie Finley, Worship Leader

CALL TO WORSHIP ¹

Leader: Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent

All: towards the One who calls us each by a new name.

Leader: Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,

All: pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.

Leader: Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,

All: whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.

COMMUNAL PRAYER ² (in unison)

Though people may turn their backs on us,
you do not hide your face from us.

Though others may try to take away our hope,
you assure us of that future waiting for us.

You speak your name, Inscrutable Creator,
and it is enough.

When we try to dictate our fears to you,
you invite us to follow you into self-denial and service.

As we struggle to shape our lifestyle to yours,
you carry us with you wherever we go.

You speak your good news, Teacher of open hearts,
and it is enough.

Though we have done nothing to earn them,
you pour out the gifts of grace and mercy upon us.

When we stumble over our lack of trust,
you set us back on our feet, to follow you into the kingdom.

You speak your peace, Breath of Holiness,
and it is enough.

God in Community, Holy in One,
it is enough that you hear us
even as we pray as we are taught,

Our Father [God/Creator],
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

(Communal Prayer continued next page)

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.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Sandra Barrios

HYMN *UMH* 368

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

- | | |
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| <p>1. My hope is built on nothing less
 than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
 but wholly lean on Jesus' name. (<i>R</i>)</p> | <p>2. When darkness veils his lovely face,
 I rest on his unchanging grace.
 In every high and stormy gale,
 my anchor holds within the veil. (<i>R</i>)</p> |
|--|--|

Refrain:

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
 all other ground is sinking sand;
 all other ground is sinking sand.

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood
 supports me in the whelming flood.
 When all around my soul gives way,
 he then is all my hope and stay. (*R*)

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound,
 O may I then in him be found!
 Dressed in his righteousness alone,
 faultless to stand before the throne! (*R*)

READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE:

Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16

Pastor Awa

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

READING FROM THE GOSPELS:

Romans 4:13-25

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!

**CELEBRATING BLACK
 HISTORY MONTH**

“Honoring the Voices of the Struggle”

Pastor De La Rosa

Soloist ³

“Way Maker”

Ebiye Tamaraebiemi Seimode

SERMON

“Walking with God and Claiming the Promises”

Pastor Awa

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. *(R)*

Refrain:

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!

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. *(R)*
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(R)*

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS & PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor De La Rosa

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

Stephanie Finley, Worship Leader

Generous God, our guide on the journey:
as we continue in worship
by offering our gifts in response to your goodness,
we can't imagine where we would be without you guiding our path –
sometimes before us; sometimes besides us; sometimes behind us,
nudging us in the direction of the work you have for us.
As you have watched over and cared for your creation,
so we acknowledge in our giving
that you are calling us to do the same.
We surrender our treasure, knowing our hearts will follow.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

-Psalm 121

OFFERTORY

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 TFWS 2088

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

Lord, I lift your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life;
I'm so glad you came to save us.

Chorus:

You came from heaven to earth
to show the way,
from the earth to the cross
my debt to pay;
from the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.

BENEDICTION

Pastor De La Rosa

POSTLUDE & ONE LICENSE MESSAGE



Copyright/References:

Permission obtained from ONE LICENSE #A-715349 and CCLI #21000626 to podcast/stream music in our service.

^{1,2} Call to Worship based on Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38; Romans 4:13-25; both written by Thom Shuman and posted on his wonderful Lectionary Liturgies blog <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>

³ By Sinach