

Greetings to our members, those from United Congregational Church in Conway and all our friends at home,

The season of Lent is almost at an end. This Sunday is the fifth Sunday of Lent and concludes our series on the Psalms. Our theme for this service is Thanksgiving with the Psalms 136 and Psalm 100. Next Sunday, March 28th is Palm Sunday, ushering us into Holy Week.

There will be an Easter Sunday YouTube again this year with a worship resource. We hope to be able to open the church to in person worship in the near future. While there is no Maundy Thursday, I will be sending a link to a Conference Good Friday service. There is an Easter Sunrise service in the planning stages. Stay tuned for the time and place.

Lenten opportunities final sessions.

24th Annual Lenten Discussion Series: *Even the Cherry Blossom Falls* series concludes with the sixth session this coming Wednesday, March 24 at 7 PM. featuring yours truly. This session is titled: ***Failure is not Fatal.***

I will be sending out the Zoom link by Tuesday.

The Franklin County Interfaith Council Lenten Ecumenical and Interfaith program titled *Lifting the Veil: Racism in Franklin County* will be offering its third and final session at 7 PM on Thursday March 25th. The flier for this program, including the Zoom link, is attached to this note.

Wishing you God's peace in the season of Lent

Pastor Rob

Welcome to Sunday Worship

March 21, 2021

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Good Morning to our members, those from United Congregational Church in Conway and all our friends at home. Today our preaching series on Psalms concludes with Psalms 136 & 100 and the theme of Thanksgiving.

Prayer Requests: We are accepting requests for prayer (healing, comfort, thanksgiving, and others). Please send your requests to the Pastor at pastor01089@gmail.com. Requests will then be sent out through our email list to the congregation for our common prayer life during the week. PLEASE remember that all prayer requests received become public knowledge. If you are uncertain if your request for another might be confidential, do not send it.

And now let us be in worship

Call to Worship (Responsive, L=Leader, P=People) Psalm 118

L This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it

P You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

L This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it

Litany of Thanksgiving (Responsive, A=All, L=Leader, P=People) Psalm 136

**A O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
O give thanks to the God of gods,**

L for his steadfast love endures forever. O give thanks to the Lord of lords,

P for his steadfast love endures forever; who alone does great wonders,

L for his steadfast love endures forever; who by understanding made the heavens,

P for his steadfast love endures forever; who spread out the earth on the waters,

L for his steadfast love endures forever; who made the great lights,

**P for his steadfast love endures forever;
the sun to rule over the day,**

L for his steadfast love endures forever;
the moon and stars to rule over the night,

P for his steadfast love endures forever;

**A O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Our prayers this morning are set within the life of gratitude and reflect the 39 psalms that include the word thanksgiving. There will be a place in the prayer for your own prayers and meditation. Let us come to prayer.

Thanks be to you, O God, as we gather in this place to praise your name. Thanks be to you, O God, for the circle of community in this place. Thanks be to you, O God, for the circle of community from all generations whom we have not seen but have met in the spirit. Thanks be to you, O God, for that great cloud of witnesses through whom you have blessed us and blessed our world – those who came before us; parents and grandparents, ancestors from other lands, who strove in courage to live as you intend. Thanks be to you, O God, for prophets and apostles, creators of beauty and artisans of craft, art, and music, discoverers of your will and your way; teachers, preachers, writers, those who tend to the needs of others and serve in our communities. Thanks be to you, O God. Thanks be to you, O God, for our moment in your

endless spiral of time and space. Thanks be to you, O God, for being in our lives this day, for the countless blessings, for the love shared with us from our friends, our neighbors, our families and from you. Thanks be to you, O God, for setting before us the ways of life, for bringing our attention and our affection to your will and your way, bringing us back to be the people you intend us to be, your hands and your feet in this community. Thanks be to you, O God, for each time we celebrate a healing, each time we rejoice in a birth, every opportunity we have to comfort those who mourn, and bring cheer to the afflicted, to live in your joy and make that joy greater by bringing it to others. Thanks be to you, O God for in confidence we offer prayers for that which is yet to be. Our future is shrouded in wonder, anxiety and mystery. We offer our thanks for your promise that you will be with us to the end of the age. Though the details are left to unfold, your love is ageless, your mercy timeless, and your righteousness eternal. In moments and events yet to be born, we give thanks that you will call women and men to further your design for creation, that others not known to us, will take up the mission, be willing to follow, and without hesitation, love you with all their heart and mind and soul and strength. In gratitude we offer this prayer as we live into our future. Thanks be to you, O God for this opportunity to offer our prayers. (personal prayer and meditation) Thanks be to you, O God, who hears each and every prayer and answers, not according to our desires, but according to your holy will. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 100

The 100th Psalm is used every day in the daily Jewish prayer service. It is also used as a canticle in the Anglican liturgy of morning prayer. Over the centuries it has been put to music by such composers as Benjamin Britten, George Frederic Handel, Henry Purcell, and Max Reger. We sing the Doxology to the tune of *Old 100th*. This tune was written in 1561 for the Psalter, *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*, based on Psalm 100. In any form, this Psalm is one of grateful praise. During this season of Lent, readings from the Book of Psalms have illustrated the themes for each of the Sundays. Today is the conclusion to this series. Our Psalm for today is the 100th. Our Theme for the Fifth Sunday of Lent is Thanksgiving

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,*

and his faithfulness to all generations.

After the reading, you may reflect on this passage.
The sermon for this Psalm may be seen in this week's video.

Sermon: *The Psalms: A Lenten Vocabulary - Thanksgiving*

Benediction: #179, *Were You There*, First Verse

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*