



**Central United Methodist Church  
of Colorado Springs**

*“A Place to Begin...Belong...Become”*

**THE CENTRAL FAMILY OF FAITH  
GATHERED IN PRAISE AND CELEBRATION**  
Rev. Debra Wacker

**Sunday, March 5, 2023, 10:00 am**



— SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT —  
***Go from Your Country***  
LEARNING TO LIVE INSIDE OUT WORSHIP SERIES

**Lenten Series: Learning to Live Inside Out  
Go from Your Country**

**Congregational Praise Prelude** “I Will Sing of the Mercies” Kim Crom & Ernie Prescott

**Welcome** Rev. Deb Wacker

**Church Opportunities** Rev. Judy

**Choral Opening** Chancel Choir

**\*Call to Worship** Rev. Judy

**Leader:** Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

**People:** **We are learning to follow Jesus.**

**Leader:** When God says, “Go!” without telling us the destination,

**People:** **Show us, Christ, how to go forward in faith.**

**Leader:** When re-birth is the impossible way forward,

**People:** **Christ, be our midwife as we accept God’s call to be reborn.**

**Leader:** When we find ourselves in the in-between of where we’ve been and where we’re going,

**People:** **Christ, meet us on the way and bless us in the going.**

**Leader:** Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

**People:** **We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn** “Blessed Assurance” UMH #369

**Children’s Message** Rev. Judy

**Our Prayers** Rev. Deb

**Hymn of Prayer** “Change My Heart, O God” TFWS #2152

Silent Prayer

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Deb: Please join me in a prayer of confession

**People:** **Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life: Hear our prayer. There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us From one another and from You. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, for fear of admitting our part in the separation, For fear of being rejected when we reach out. You**

**call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with You. Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations Bring healing to those of us in need, strengthen those who are in leadership roles in the family, In the corporate world, in government; for those who go to war, give a hand up, stand for justice, bend a knee. Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray your prayer, Oh Lord:**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **Offering Our Tithes and Gifts**

Offertory "The Old Rugged Cross" arr. D. Wood Kim Crom

\*Doxology "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" FWS #2223  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

\* Prayer of Thanksgiving Rev. Deb

**Hymn Of Preparation** "Come and Find the Quiet Center" TFWS #2128 vs. 1 & 3

**Scripture** John 3:1-17 (NRSV) Rev. Judy

"Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Leader: This is a Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Sermon** "Go From Your Country" Rev. Deb

**Communion** Rev. Deb and Rev. Judy

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts. *(The pastor may lift hands and keep them raised.)*

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing...join their unending hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...

**All: Amen.**

### **Sharing the Meal**

Communion Servers:

Rev. Deb & Bob Spate and Rev. Judy & Madelyn Spaete

(As you are able, please come forward, two servers wearing gloves will place a piece of bread and a cup of juice into your hand.)

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*Closing Hymn** "Now Let Us from This Table Rise" UMH #634 vs. 1 & 2

**\*Benediction of the People** Rev. Deb

**Choral Closing** Chancel Choir

**Postlude** "Saraband" D. Hergarty Kim Crom

(Please remain seated until the music has stopped. The service is still being streamed live on zoom.)

\*Standing for those who wish

**Congregational Praise Prelude** "I Will Sing of the Mercies" Kim Crom & Ernie Prescott

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing.  
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.  
With my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness, thy faithfulness.  
With my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.  
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing.  
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

**\*Opening Hymn** "Blessed Assurance" UMH #369

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

**Hymn of Prayer** "Change My Heart, O God" TFWS #2152

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.  
You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

**Hymn of Preparation:** "Come and Find the Quiet Center" TFWS #2128 vs. 1 & 3

1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see.  
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.
3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

**\*Closing Hymn:** "Now Let Us from This Table Rise" UMH #634 vs. 1 & 2

1. Now let us from this table rise renewed in body, mind, and soul;  
with Christ we die and live again, his selfless love has made us whole.
2. With minds alert, upheld by grace to spread the word in speech and deed,  
we follow in the steps of Christ, at one with all in hope and need.

**WE ARE LOYAL TO OUR CHURCH BY OUR**

**PRAYERS:** Turkey, Syria, Russia; Pam Newman's daughter-in-law, Dina Newman's Mom, Winifred Flowers passed away last week. Rev. Judy Owsley, Bob and Barbra Morris with Covid For the daughters and their families of Billie Owings: (Roger and Vicky Sams, Kathy Andrew, and Lani Bosick); June Salladay is still in rehab, doing well. Ace Heyms. broke his ankle. Kathy Andrew, Lani and Chelsea Bosick for their health; Norm Pechacek surgery is postponed due to blood clot; Sandy Kirkpatrick, Adrienne Schipfer's mom, as she finishes her treatments. Lillian Bauserman on a walker and with oxygen but doing very well. Kathy Cole's son in law, Henry Robinson; Trey Gilbert-DeGraffe, Mike Wheat, Our "WAVES," our country and its leaders.

**Serving in mission:** Kutela Katembo, Missionary in Angola, Africa

**PRESENCE:** Sanctuary 85, Fellowship Hall 3, Online 11, Nursery 6 **Total: 105**  
**Ash Wednesday: 16**

<b>GIFTS:</b>	Feb 26	Feb 19	Feb 12	Feb 5	Jan 29
	\$4,883.00	\$7,438.00	\$6380.00	\$4,880.00	\$2,317.00

**SERVICE:** Thank you to Pat Dudgeon who made soup for Ash Wednesday.

**CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES**

**MARCH MISSION FOCUS:** "MONUMENTAL FAITH" We can help it to grow. In Espanola, NM, this summer some children will be enriched by 6 weeks of "Camp Stars," a program of McCurdy Ministries which is our March Mission Focus. Each week, 50 children (K thru 6th) will learn about God's awesome creations that surround the area, along with Bible School lessons and STEM education. Field trips are scheduled to nearby Ghost Ranch, Rio Grande Gorge, Los Luceros Historic Ranch, and several Pueblo archaeological ruins.

Most of the students are from low-income families and will only be able to participate if they receive scholarships. WE CAN HELP! At a cost of \$200 per child [for camp supplies, 2 meals per day and transportation], how many children can we sponsor? You may contribute with a check to Central UMC, designated "McCurdy" or with coins or cash on Sundays.

**FOOD GIFTS** Oodles of Noodles!! This month, the pantry at Mercy's Gate has asked for Ramen noodles and pasta and chicken noodle soup. Let's help by bringing oodles of noodles!! You may bring noodles, pasta, soup or any non-perishable food items to the grocery cart in the church entry on any Sunday morning or weekday. Thanks for sharing.

# LILIES FOR EASTER

**UMCOR IS ON THE GROUND:** The UM Committee on Relief is working in Syria and Turkey supporting rescue/recovery operations and providing aid to victims. UMCOR will remain long after other agencies have left, guiding reconstruction and long-term support. We can help with a contribution to CUMC, designated UMCOR. We will celebrate UMCOR Sunday will be on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**THANK YOU!!** To Central Family of Faith, I thank you so much for this past Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Totally unexpected, but I appreciate it and that I was able to be there. There certainly are more people in this Family that have done or are still doing more than I ever did. Keep up the good work. This is what makes Central a great family of faith! Thank you, Lee Helmbrecht

**UPPER ROOM** New March – April 2023 are available at the entryway on the literature rack.

## KINDNESS CHALLENGES THIS WEEK

March 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

Focus: GRATITUDE

Kindness Challenges:

1. Write a handwritten not to someone who always makes you smile.
2. Send a kind text to a loved one.
3. Spend some time with someone you don't know very well.
4. Complete a random act of kindness for someone.
5. Remind your closest friends how much you care.
6. Be kind to our planet: reuse and repurpose.
7. Be kind to yourself: dedicate some time to making a space for yourself that is calm and relaxing.

This Easter you will be able to order 6-inch Easter Lilies to be used to adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to contribute to the beauty of the sanctuary, please fill out the order form below and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. You will be able to take the plants you order with you on Easter Sunday.

Your order form, along with your check or cash for \$17.50 per plant, should be received at the church by Sunday, **March 26<sup>th</sup>**. Checks should be made payable to Central UMC and have the words "Easter Flowers" on the memo line. The church office will still be open between 9-2 pm Mon - Fri. or checks mailed at CUMC 4373 Galley Rd. C/S 80915. **Please call Judy Day for any questions at 231-4380.**



Number of Plants:

Easter Lily \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17.50 = \_\_\_\_\_ amount attached.

\_\_\_\_\_ would like to order a plant...

Your Name

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_