

Solomons United Methodist Church
Loving, Serving, and Growing in the Name of Jesus Christ

Sunday, March 4, 2018
10:00 a.m.

Order of Worship
Welcome

THE UNCERTAINTY OF FORGIVENESS



EMBRACING
THE UNCERTAIN

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Video: Forgiveness is Hard

*Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Pew Bible page 800/see screen

Sermon

Rev. Dottie Yunger

Hymn of Preparation

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

UMH #390/see screen

Sharing our Joys, Blessings, and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Offering and Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Confessing Jesus Christ as Savior of the World, we let go our false hopes of salvation in any other name, and all false saviors, and we pray for your saving love and power to be revealed. Putting our whole trust in Christ's grace, we forgive those who have harmed us, we bless those who have persecuted us, and we seek mercy, peace, justice, and reconciliation for all people and all of your creation. Serving Jesus as Lord who unites us with people of all ages, nations, and races, and sends us as his representatives into the world, we seek healing and wholeness for all people, and we pray: with families, friends, and neighbors, near and far, like us and different from us; with all who need your healing power, and for all who offer healing through their skill and presence; and for all whom we have harmed by our action or inaction. Receive these prayers of your people, most merciful God. In your compassion, forgive our sins, and drive us to lives of faithful service in and through the one and diverse community of your church, through Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EARLY IN LENT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good.

From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people. When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.
Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.**

When you gave him to save us from our sin, our Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.

Amen.

Communion Song

Ah, Holy Jesus

UMH #289/see screen

[Communion is open to EVERYONE in attendance. Take a piece of bread and dip it into the juice provided for you.]

Children's Time with Rev. Dottie Yunger

Closing Prayer

*Closing Hymn

Mighty to Save

see screen

*Benediction

*Taking the Light of Christ into the World and Postlude

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Fridays are Sabbath

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