

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 12, 2017

8:15 A.M. — 10:30 A.M.

Second Sunday in Lent

Good morning! We wish God's grace and peace to you as we worship this morning. During the welcome, please sign the registration pads. If you are a first time visitor, we welcome you this morning and pray you have a meaningful worship time with us. (CCLI 1765953)

***“Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?”***

### GATHERING MUSIC

Tony Merry

### GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Chow

### CELEBRATION THROUGH PRAISE

\*HYMN 369 “Blessed Assurance”

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (10:30) *As children come forward, sing 277 – vs. 1* Cindy Lawyer  
(*Children will go downstairs for KidsOwnWorship*)

### CELEBRATION THROUGH GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE John 3:1-5, 14-17 (Translation – Taylor Burton-Edwards)

Reader 1 – Narrator 8:15 & 10:30 — Pastor Mark Chow

Now there was a person named Nicodemus sent from the Pharisees, who were religious leaders among the Jewish people. He came toward Jesus at night and said to him:

Congregation – Nicodemus

**Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God, because no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God were with him.**

Reader 2 – Jesus 8:15 – Tony Merry / 10:30 – Jack Thorne

Truly, truly I tell you, unless you are born anew, you cannot see the kingdom of God.

Congregation –

**How can a person be born once old? We can't enter into the mother's womb a second time and be born!**

Reader 2 –

Truly, truly I tell you: unless you are born of water and the Spirit, you cannot enter into the kingdom of God. And just as Moses lifted on high the serpent in the desert, so also must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone believing in him should have eternal life.

All –

**This is how much God loved the world; God gave God's only-begotten son, so that everyone believing into him should not be destroyed, but should have eternal life.**

Reader 2 –

For God did not send the son into the world to condemn the world, but so the world might be saved through him.

*Silence*

Pastor – “Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?”

**We do with the help of God, by doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all people, by giving, visiting, instructing, reproving, and exhorting.**

### MESSAGE

Pastor Mark Chow

### ACCEPT

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

8:15 – Tony Merry / 10:30 – Jack Thorne

Accepting the freedom God gives us, we step out and away from every force that seeks to constrain love and justice in our own hearts, and we pray:

**For all people kept in poverty or slavery, all who are in fear from abusers, terrorists, and oppressors, all who face addiction of any kind, and all who are targeted for unjust treatment because of who they are;**

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Accepting the power God gives us, we speak and act with courage for the freedom and dignity of every human being and the good of all creation, and we pray:

**For leaders in religious, political, economic, and social life; for our families, friends, and neighbors; and for all who work to sustain and protect our lives as military, civilian workers, and first responders;**

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Freed and empowered by God to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in every form in which they present themselves, we band together as Christ's body seeking the deliverance and salvation of all people, and we pray:

**for all who need your healing power, and for all who offer healing through their skill and presence; for all who have harmed us, and all whom we have harmed by our action or inaction;**

*Silence*

In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God! Amen!**

### CELEBRATION THROUGH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR TITHES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

“Were You There”

arr. F. Smith

*Grace Chancel Choir*

\*DOXOLOGY 95

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*BLESSING OF THE OFFERING

Jack Thorne

**GOING FORTH TO CELEBRATE**

\*CLOSING HYMN 297 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

**SENDING FORTH**

The way is sometimes more than you can handle.

**We accept God's freedom and power.**

There is much work to be done, and many will try to turn you around.

**We accept God's freedom and power to resist.**

Remember you are not resisting flesh and blood.

**With God's freedom and power, we will resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.**

Go then, with the blessing of our Triune God.

**We go to live our baptismal calling. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

"Sortie"  
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E. Missa

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY** are given in honor of the children and Christian Education of the church.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY -- Sunday School – 15

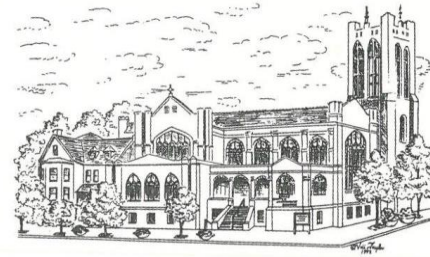
Worship – 19, 60

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

- March 13 Lorri Havens
- March 14 Katarina Northrup
- March 15 Heather Dolen, Allison Hansel, Tyler Miller, Jill Leake
- March 16 Courtney Jones, Hannah Thompson
- March 17 Dani Kinsey, Carley Oldfield, Jaye Hayes
- March 18 Jessica Nail, Sid Short

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

Sunday, March 12	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Service – Faith UMC
Monday, March 13	6:30 p.m.	Grief Share – Parlor
Tuesday, March 14		
Wednesday, March 15	6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Thursday, March 16	6:30 p.m.	Women's Book Study – Classroom
Friday, March 17	6:30 a.m.	Bible Study – Parlor
	7:00 p.m.	Lay Servant Training
Saturday, March 18	8:00-4:00	Lay Servant Training
Sunday, March 19	8:15 a.m.	Early Service – Fellowship Hall
	9:00-10:15	Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall
	9:15-10:15	Sunday School – all ages
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Service – Coburn UMC



**GRACE UNITED**

**METHODIST**

**CHURCH**

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March 12, 2017

**Second Sunday in Lent: Living Our Baptismal Calling**

The season of Lent is a time of reflection, self-examination and penitence. During this Holy Season, we will explore the vows of our baptismal covenant. This morning we focus on the vow to "Accept the freedom and power God gives you..." We listen and watch as Jesus tells Nicodemus (a religious leader) about the new birth.

*"Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?"*

**OUTREACH** — During the month of March, the Outreach Committee will be collecting personal items to take to the residents of Transitions, our local shelter for battered women. We are asking the Grace Church family to help with this project. There will be trees in the back of the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall with colored tags on them. Please take a few of the tags and purchase the items listed on them. Return your items by the end of March so they can be delivered to Transitions during April. There will be baskets near the trees to collect the donations. Thank you in advance for your generosity!!

**FOOD DRIVE** — total received through 3/5 = \$6,395!!!!

**TONIGHT – Sunday, March 12** – 6:00 p.m. - Community Lenten Service at Faith UMC (Blue Ave.) Rev. Justin Williams, Christy Swope, and others will lead us in a dramatic presentation.

**NEXT Sunday, March 19** – 6:00 p.m. - Community Lenten Service at Coburn UMC (Maple Ave.) Pastor Mark Chow, Rev. Joy French and others will lead us in a dramatic presentation.

**Sunday, March 26 – 6:00 p.m. Grace UMC will HOST** the Community Lenten Service. Rev. Richard Purvis and others will lead us in a dramatic presentation.

**LOOKING AHEAD – April 23** – A Women's Event immediately following the 10:30 service.