



United Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Second Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

March 17, 2024

The Reverend Cheryl Montgomery
812-332-1850 www.upcbloomington.org

United Presbyterian Church
 March 17, 2024 – Fifth Sunday in Lent



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS **Reverend Cheryl Montgomery**
PRELUDE *Prelude in C Minor BWV 871–J.S. Bach* Benjamin Watkins, piano



Today's sanctuary flowers are placed Gerrit & Vera Heitink in loving memory of Vera's dearest mother on the first anniversary of her passing and in celebration of their daughter's birthday.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Aline Haddad, liturgist

Liturgist: Jesus said, "When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself."

People: Blessed be the God of our salvation who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

***Opening Hymn** *Lift High the Cross* #57

PASSING OF THE PEACE (liturgist & congregation)



Liturgist: Let us share the joy of salvation and the assurance of love with one another by offering signs of peace and reconciliation.

MUSIC for MEDITATION

Have Mercy on Us, Living Lord (Psalm 51)

Members of the UPC Quartet

Call to Confession (Liturgist)

Let us pray for the cleansing of our hearts, confessing our sins to the One whose mercy is everlasting.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 51: 1-4, 9-10) In unison with Liturgist

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Liturgist)

God has already created a clean heart in you. In the name of Christ, we are forgiven and made new in God's love.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Liturgist)

Your Word, O God, has power to change our lives and to create a whole new world. As we meditate on your word this day, fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may treasure your word with our whole hearts and fix our eyes on you. Amen.

First Reading: *Jeremiah 31: 31-34* (Pew Bible p.605; Large Print p.1222) – Liturgist

Second Reading: *Hebrews 5:5-10* (Pew Bible p.912; Large Print p.1845) – Liturgist

Gospel Reading: *John 12: 20-33* (Pew Bible p.822; Large Print p.1657)–Pastor

Pastor: The word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON

The Hour has Come

Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Hymn: *Go to Dark Gethsemane* #97

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Pastor: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

People: Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

People: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and The Lord's Prayer

Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart, Oh God

Members of the UPC Quartet

**Doxology* #592

Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Cheryl Montgomery

***Closing Hymn** *O Jesus, I Have Promised* #388

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

POSTLUDE *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (Tune: Wellesley)*

Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Kathleen Olds Rev. David Rosen Anita Steverson Roby Lorimer Joe Rhuebottom

His Eyes Mission in Honduras

Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project in Uganda

The people of Ukraine and Middle East

Our military men and women around the world

Our elementary, middle, high, college and grad students returning from Spring Break

The staff and faculty of Monroe County United Ministries

Justice Advocacy – PC(USA)

Grant, O God,

that your holy and life-giving Spirit

may so move every human heart,

that the barriers which divide us may crumble,

suspensions disappear,

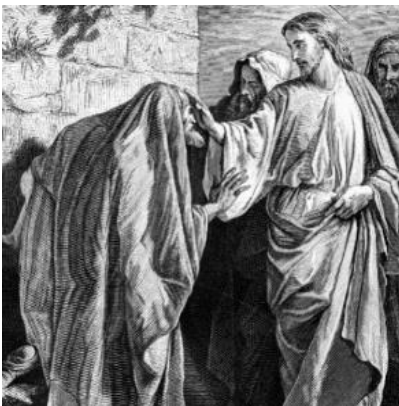
and hatreds cease,

and that, with our divisions healed,

we might live in justice and peace;

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For Social Justice, The Book of Common Worship, pg 818, #67



Spiritual Reminder of Lent's Purpose

"(Lent) is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism."

-Pope Benedict XVI