

Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

April 28th, 2024

9:00 am

Choir *Indescribable*

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:14-20 THE MESSAGE

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Christ's love has moved me to such extremes. His love has the first and last word in everything we do. Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.

¹⁶⁻²⁰ Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.

L: May God add a blessing to the reading, hearing & understanding of these words.

R: Thanks be to God.

* Song of Preparation

Jesus Calls Us

UMH #398

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852; Music: William H. Jude, 1874

- 1: Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying "Christian, follow me!"
- 2: As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.
- 3: Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying "Christian, love me more!"
- 4: In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"
- 5: Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all!

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE*



No matter where you are on your journey, ALL are welcome here.

Welcome & Opportunities for Service

Opening Prayer

*Opening Song *Come Thou Font of Every Blessing* UMH #400

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758; Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813

- 1: Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.
- 2: Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
- 3: O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Lifting Our Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

(Please pray in the language that brings you closest to God)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

