Welcome to the Rectortown

United Methodist Church

*No matter where you have been or where you have failed to be –*

*what you have said or what you have failed to say - what you have done or what you have failed to do - whom you have loved or*

*whom you have failed to love - you are welcome here.*

***ENTRANCE***

**PRELUDE** - let us quiet our minds, hearts, and spirits as we begin to focus on the presence of God as we become aware of the *Light of Christ* in our midst.

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS and CELEBRATIONS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(adapted the Abingdon Worship Annual, 2021, p.52)*

God’s voice names us in holy love. Christ’s voice chastens us when we go astray. The Spirit’s voice draws us back to the paths of righteousness. Thanks be to God!

From generation to generation, God names us and claims us.

**Blessed be the Lord, our God.**

When we try to tell God what to do, Christ chastens us and leads us back onto the paths of life.

**Let all who draw breath come back to the Lord.**

From our earliest steps, the Spirit guides our steps and sets before us the ways of life and death.

**Let the faithful rejoice in the mysteries of our God.**

From generation to generation, God names us and claims us.

**Let heaven and earth praise God’s holy name.**

**HYMN**  I Have Decided to Follow Jesus TFWS 2129

**OPENING PRAYER** *(adapted the Abingdon Worship Annual, 2021, pp.52-53)*

**Most loving and gracious Spirit of the Ages – name us and claim us according to your purposes, as you once called Abram and Sarai long ago. Train your ears to hear your call; and tune our hearts to open at the sound of your voice. As we pick up our cross to follow you, raise us to newness of life. For you call us to be children of your covenant, heirs with your Son, and disciples of your grace. These things we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**YOUNG DISCIPLE’s MESSAGE**

*Taking the easy way out*…

***PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE***

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*(adapted from FOTW Worship Companion, Yr. B, Vol 1, p. 104)*

**Holy Spirit – open our hearts to receive your Word. Reveal to us the good news, and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ. In his name we pray. Amen.**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 8:31-38

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM READING**

22:23-31

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

**\*** Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen. Amen.

**TODAY’s MESSAGE** *Promises we can’t keep*…

**HYMN**  The Summons TFWS 2130

**AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH** UMH 882

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**GIVING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

Offertory Prayer

***THANKSGIVING***

The Lord’s Prayer UMH 895

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.

**HYMN**  Be Thou My Vision UMH 451

***SENDING FORTH***

 May You Run and Not Grow Weary TFWS 2281

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| ***This worship service has ended, and now your service begins.******As you leave church today, you are entering the mission field.*** |

**Questions for Reflection**

(adapted from FOTW Worship Companion, Year B, Volume 1, p. 106)

Jesus asks his disciples to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him. How do you practice self-denial for the sake of the gospel? Is every instance of self-denial an act of obedience to Jesus? Can some forms of self-denial foster oppression?

**Rectortown United Methodist Church**

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**Rectortown United Methodist Church**

February 28th, 2021, 10:00 a.m.



*“All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34b, CEB).*

***Bishop****: Sharma D. Lewis****District Superintendent****: Rev. Charles F. Ledlum-Bates*

***Pastor****: Rev. Steven W. Weedling
4082 Rectortown Road, Marshall, VA* 20115

*Pastor’s Home Phone:* (540) 364-2166

*Pastor’s Cell Phone:* (540) 340-2569
*Pastor’s E-mail:* steveweedling@vaumc.org

***Music Director****:* Karen Chase

***Ministers****: every member of the congregation*