

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Oak Forest, Hickory Stand, Ledford's Chapel UMC | March 22, 2020

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MEDITATION

Draw us into your love, Christ Jesus: **and deliver us from all fear.**

Draw us into your word, Christ Jesus: **and deliver us from words of gloom.**

Draw us into your passion, Christ Jesus: **and strengthen for all that lies ahead.**

Draw us into your truth, Christ Jesus: **and free us from all deceptions.**

Draw us into your life, Christ Jesus: **and let us rest in You**

O Lord, come to our assistance; **O God, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end. Amen.**

OPENING SONG:

Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place (UMH #328)

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angels wings.

I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Let us confess silently to the Lord, our God.

I confess to Almighty God and to you my brothers and sisters that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, and I ask you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Silently pray for the people around you or the people who come to mind...

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Hear the Good News the way Saint Paul tells it. "Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, this to prove the love of God." In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As forgiven and reconciled people, we share signs of Christ's peace with one another. Consider sending a text or email or making a phone call later to share the peace of Christ with someone who comes to mind.

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

Come Thou Fount (UMH # 400)

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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-5

*60 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
2 For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
3 Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
4 Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
5 Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

8 For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.— 9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such

people do secretly; ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

SERMON

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen. (UMH #881)**

THANKSGIVINGS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We invite you to share your praises and concerns in the comments of the live stream

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
And now, O Jesus, may it bring you joy to hear us pray the way You teach, saying,

**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 them who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

OFFERING

*We offer ourselves in worship and service to God and our neighbor.
Financial gifts are also an important part of our call in supporting the church. During this time, checks can be mailed to the churches (find each church's mailing address at the bottom of this document). Oak Forest can also receive gifts through PayPal at oakforestchurch.org/donate.*

SONG

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (UMH #206)

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

*In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

2. I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

Join us Tuesday-Friday at noon for midday prayer. [Facebook.com/oakforestchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oakforestchurch) or [facebook.com/ledfordschapel](https://www.facebook.com/ledfordschapel)

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