

whole

Homer United Methodist Church

January 17, 2021

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<https://www.facebook.com/HomerUnitedMethodistChurchAlaska/>

OR

Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/Jogc2sdvltI>

Centering

- Human Relations Sunday
- offer a prayer of gratitude for the indigenous peoples on whose land you live, work, and worship

Opening Prayer

“Sometimes It Just Seems To Be Too Much”

Ted Loder

Sometimes, Lord

it just seems to be too much,

too much violence, too much fear,

too much of demands and problems,

too much of broken dreams and broken lives, too much of war and slums and dying,

too much of greed and squishy fatness

and the sounds of people

devouring each other

and the earth,

too much of stale routines and quarrels,

unpaid bills and dead ends,

too much of words lobbed in to explode

and leaving shredded hearts and lacerated souls,

too much of turned-away backs and yellow silence,

red rage and the bitter taste of ashes in my mouth.

Sometimes the very air seems scorched

by threats and rejection and decay

until there is nothing

but to inhale pain

and exhale confusion.

Too much of darkness, Lord,

too much of cruelty

and selfishness

and indifference.

Too much, Lord,

too much

too bloody

bruising

brain-washing much.

Or is it too little,
 too little of compassion
too little of courage,
 of daring,
 of persistence,
 of sacrifice,
too little of music
 and laughter
 and celebration?

O God,
make of me some nourishment
 for these starved times,
some food
 for my brothers and sisters
 who are hungry for gladness and hope,
that, being bread for them,
 I may also be fed
 and be full. Amen.

Opening Song

Praise the Source of Faith and Learning

Ola Mullikin

WORDS: Thomas H. Troeger

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard; harm. from *The English Hymnal*

CCLI Song # 3422034

CCLI # 11365960

Prayer for Illumination

Tom Early

By your Holy Spirit, O God, open our ears, our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to your holy Word who brings salvation and wholeness to all. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Tom Early

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

 who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

 make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens

torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Preparation

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Ola Mullikin

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr.
MUSIC: David Ashley White
CCLI Song # 3413029
CCLI # 11365960

Sermon

Desperate for a Miracle

Pastor Lisa

Jesus loves us just the way we are, but Jesus does not leave us as we are. Whatever possesses us, whatever distracts us, whatever ails us, Jesus heals.

Song of Response

Spirit Song

Ola Mullikin

WORDS: John Wimber, 1979
MUSIC: John Wimber, 1979
CCLI Song # 27824
CCLI # 11365960

The Lord's Prayer

Tom Early

**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.**

Offering Our Gifts and Ourselves to God

Thank you for your continued generosity. Your gifts help us maintain the work of the church.

Special offerings given today to the Humans Relations fund will support the United Methodist Voluntary Services, Community Developers, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.

Give online: <https://www.homerumcalaska.org/Donate.html>

Give by check: Homer UMC, 770 East End Road, Homer, AK, 99603

Benediction

You are God's beloved children.
As God loves you, love others.
As God forgives you, forgive others.
As God heals you, heal others.
Amen.

Closing Song

WORDS: Anon.
MUSIC: Anon.
CCLI Song # 28263
CCLI # 11365960
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Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Ola Mullikin