

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT NIMMO UMC

*We are a welcoming community where you can grow in faith, hope, and love.*

11 AM TRADITIONAL ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 20, 2022

Third Sunday in Lent

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

**\*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT** TFWS No. 2128

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

**"Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed; Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be."**

### CALL TO WORSHIP

In God's presence today, we yearn to see more of God and live more like Christ.

***Open our eyes oh God, as we seek to live a life that is pleasing to you.***

***We hope, oh God, that our lives would have an impact on this hurting world.***

Nearer, nearer blessed Lord, to the cross where  
Thou hast died!

***Draw us nearer to you, Jesus, that we might live as you would have us live.***

**\*OPENING HYMN** UMH No. 64

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

### ANTHEM

Adult Choir

*Be Still*

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Isaiah 58: 1-9 (VOICE)**

**Eternal One:** Tell My people about their wrongdoing; shout with a voice like a trumpet;

Hold nothing back: say this people of Jacob's line and heritage have failed to do what is right.

<sup>2</sup> And yet they look for Me every day.

They *pretend* to want to learn what I teach,  
As if they are indeed a nation good and true,

as if they hadn't really turned their backs on My directives. They even ask Me, *as though they care*, about what I want them to be and do, as if they really want Me in their lives.

<sup>3</sup> **People:** Why didn't You notice how *diligently* we fasted before You?

We humbled ourselves *with pious practices* and You paid no attention.

**Eternal One:** *I have to tell you*, on those fasting days, all you were *really* seeking was your own pleasure;

Besides you were busy *defrauding people* and abusing your workers.

<sup>4</sup> Your *kind of fasting is pointless*, for it only leads to *bitter* quarrels, contentious *backbiting*, and vicious fighting.

You are not fasting today because you want Me to hear your voice.

<sup>5</sup> What kind of a fast do I choose? Is a true fast simply *some religious exercise* for making a person feel miserable and woeful?

Is it about how you bow your head (like a *bent* reed), how you dress (in sackcloth), and where you sit (in a bed of ashes)?

Is this what you call a fast, a day the Eternal One finds good and proper?

<sup>6</sup> No, what I want in a fast is this:

to liberate those tied down and held back by injustice, to lighten the load of those heavily burdened, to free the oppressed and shatter every type of oppression.

<sup>7</sup> A fast *for Me* involves sharing your food with people who have none, giving those who are homeless a space in your home,

Giving clothes to those who need them, and not neglecting your own family.

<sup>8</sup> Then, *oh then*, your light will break out like the *warm, golden rays of a rising sun*;

in an instant, you will be healed.

Your rightness will precede *and protect* you;

the glory of the Eternal will follow and defend you.

<sup>9</sup> Then when you do call out, "*My God, Where are You?*" The Eternal One will answer, "I am here, *I am here.*"

If you remove the yoke of oppression *from the downtrodden among you*,

stop accusing others, and do away with mean and inflammatory speech,

*This is the word of God, for us the people of God*  
**Thanks be to God**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Lucas McGee

**SERMON**Rev. Amanda S. Webber  
'Fasting'**\*RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
I believe 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, died, and was 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.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

UMH No. 70

**OFFERTORY**arr. M. Hayes  
*Nearer, My God to Thee***\*DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below; praise  
him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**BLESSING OF THE OFFERING**

*God, accept our gifts today as an expression of  
our desire to be nearer to you. Help us to be  
people who give out of love for you and for  
others, not people who give in order to prove  
ourselves. As we practice giving of ourselves,  
we pray and trust that you will transform our  
offerings into blessings for the world you have  
created. Amen.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*God, you know us, and you know our hearts.  
You accept us, wherever we are, as works in  
progress. But sometimes we do not accept  
ourselves where we are. Sometimes we try to  
pretend we are something we are not.  
Sometimes we try to impress others, you, and  
even ourselves by what we do on the outside,*

*without paying attention to what's really  
happening inside. Forgive us. Forgive all the  
ways we try to make something of ourselves  
instead of letting you shape us. Help us to  
practice habits that draw us nearer to you, even  
when it is hard or uncomfortable. Help us to  
always look to Jesus, our example and our  
savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER****\*CLOSING HYMN**

UMH No. 142

*If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee***\*BENEDICTION****\*POSTLUDE**


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*\*Please stand as able*

**Participants in Worship****Pastor:** Rev. Amanda S. Webber**Director of Music Ministry:** Dyanna Hornbaker**Director of Next Generation Ministry:** Lucas McGee**Greeter:** Marie Grindle**Usher:** Jaye Koch**Liturgist:** Elaine Calhoun