

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Avondale United Methodist Church

Wandering Heart

"Jesus sought me"

Every Sunday: Small Groups @ 9 a.m. | Worship @ 10:10 a.m. | Prayer Circle @ 11:20 a.m.

GATHERING

Gathering Music

I Stand Amazed in the Presence

Gathering

✦ Call to Worship

One: Come in. Feel your feet on the floor. Settle your worries. Take a deep breath.
Dust the cobwebs from your ears. Relax the tension in your jaw,

All: for Christ is here. God never stops seeking us.

One: We have been found.

All: Let us find God in return.

One: Let us worship the God of deep waters.

All: Amen.

✦ Song of Faith

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

UMH 269

LAND OF REST | WORDS: Claudia F. Hernaman | MUSIC: USA folk melody; arr. By Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988 | Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House | CCLI Song #2312509 | | All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI #20356168.

Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins
and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend,
and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
so teach us, gracious Lord,

to die to self, and chiefly live
by thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence,
and through thy passion tide,
yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

ENGAGING

The Brown Bag Mystery Tour

R² & The AUMC Young Ones

Children and youth of all ages and stages are welcome to come to the front of the sanctuary to hang out with Rev. Rebecca as we discover the surprise awaiting us in the Brown Bag.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Psalm 25:1-10 | Luke 5:1-11

One: This is the Word of God for you who are the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

✦ Song of Faith

You Sought Me

ERHALT UNS, HERR | WORDS: Anna Strickland | MUSIC: Joseph Klug | Copyright © 2023 Anna Strickland. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC

My bones and head were bent down low
When you approached me on your own
You sought me out and called my name
My life would never be the same

I tried to tell you, "Leave me be—
I'm not sure what you see in me."
And yet you chose my net to fill
With all my faults you call me still

A chance encounter by the lake
I thought this must be some mistake
That someone wrapped in holiness
Would willingly embrace this mess

When I begin to doubt my worth
Remind me I was formed from earth
The very good creation of
My God who seeks me out in love

Message

Wandering Heart: "Jesus sought me"

Affirmation of Faith

One: Join me as we affirm our faith.

All: I believe in a God of abundance—
a God who sees possibilities where I cannot,
and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.

I believe in a God who comforts—
a God who says, "Do not be afraid;"
a God who joins me in life's deep waters.

I believe in a God who invites—
a God who says, "Follow me,"
and, "You will be fishers of people."

I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—
a God of second chances and boundless mercy;
a God who calls us by name.

We believe.

Help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Call to Prayer

Lord of All Hopefulness

FWS 2197

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

All: Loving God,
You call us by name.
You join us in the deep waters of life.
You invite us to drop our nets and follow you,
and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter.

Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised
to find you in our midst.

Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own.
Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves.
Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat.

Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you,
for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray.
Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

One: Friends, ... That is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in that.
Amen.

All: That *is* the good news of the gospel. We will rest, celebrate, and trust in that.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

Offering

One of the ways we give thanks to God at Avondale UMC is by meeting God's generosity with our own. The Connection Card in the bulletin is a tool for offering to God our acts of discipleship throughout the previous week. It's also a place to share with the pastor any prayer requests. As the offering plate comes your way, we encourage you to connect with your nearest neighbors.



Musical Offering

Amazing Love

✦ Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

OLD 100th | WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; alt. | MUSIC: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551 | CCLI Song #56204 | | All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI #20356168.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Maker, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✦ Prayer of Dedication

One: Let us pray...

All: O Seeking God, we drop to our knees like Peter before us, offering not only our wandering hearts but also the resources of our hands and lives. Time and again you fill our nets from the deep waters of your abundance. With awe and wonder we bring to you the overflow so that the ministries of this congregation will reach other wandering hearts with the goodness of your never-failing love. Bless these gifts, we pray, in the name of the One who sought us. Amen.

SENDING

Upcoming

These upcoming opportunities are a chance to carry this week's message into the world. Be sure to mark your calendars and invite others to join us.

✦ Song of Faith

Jesus Calls Us

UMH 398

GALILEE | WORDS: Cecil Frances Alexander | MUSIC: William Jude | Copyright © 1984 The United Methodist Publishing House | CCLI Song #3109876 | | All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI #20356168.

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!"

As of old the apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

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!"

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!"

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.

Blessing

Parting Music

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Worship Participants

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Dunger Peak

Ministers: The People

Tech Team: Brent Henry & Jason Wimberley

Music Director: Kevin Hershberger

Worship Leader: Vicki Graft

Candle Lighters: Our Youth

Worship Credits

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Wandering Heart Liturgy by and adapted from the work of Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

River of Grace, acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing inspired by Luke 5:1-11 by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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“Jesus sought me” | The First Sunday in Lent | Luke 5:1-11

Fish: Jesus instructs Peter to cast his nets after an unsuccessful day of fishing, and he catches an absurd abundance of fish. Peter doesn't feel worthy of this gift, but Jesus calls him to be a fisher of people all the same. The fish represents God's abundant provision of sustenance and grace, as well as Peter's shift in vocation and calling—from fisher of fish to fisher of people.

This Week's Centering Practice for Wandering Hearts | Center yourself in silence. Sit in the quiet for 5 minutes. Allow your thoughts to pass by like a stream. Be still and listen.

This Week's Journaling Prompts for Wandering Hearts | **Sunday:** How does it feel to imagine Jesus seeking you out? What comfort does that provide? | **Monday:** What in your life feels abundantly good? | **Tuesday:** What are you seeking? | **Wednesday:** What does the image of “deep water” bring to mind? Does deep water feel risky, holy, challenging, or awe-inspiring? | **Thursday:** What is the beginning of your faith story? | **Friday:** Peter doubted that he was worthy of Jesus' presence. What helps you remember and hold onto your self-worth? | **Saturday:** Jesus calls Peter to be a “fisher of people.” What might God be calling you to be in this season of life?

All This Time

I put my headphones in.
I walk quickly.
I look toward the ground.
I create one million barriers
of independence,
but *still* God seeks after me.
God leans a rainbow over the sky.
God sends sun after the rain.
God blankets the earth with wildflowers.
God allows music to carry
and laughter to rise,
all so that I might notice.
And when I do notice,
the unfurling that begins in my soul
is slow and holy and burning.
I am not alone.
God has been chasing after me
all this time.



River of Grace, acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing inspired by Luke 5:1-11 by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org