

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” #393

**\*Benediction**

*Please be mindful of others who continue  
to worship through the Postlude.*

**Postlude**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.\**

**The United Church of Mapleton**

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413 Mapleton, MN 56065

(507) 524-3141

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Our Mission:

*The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship of  
mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated to the  
Maple River community.*

**Order of Worship**

Sunday, March 13th, 2016

Fifth Sunday in Lent

**Prelude**

**Welcome, Announcements**

*If you are a visitor today, please fill out the welcome card in the  
pew rack and place it in the offering plate later in the service  
so that we can get to know each other!*

**\*Call to Worship**

*Based on Psalm 22:22-24*

One: We will tell of your name, O God.

**Many: In the midst of the congregation, we will praise you!**

One: Praise God, all who stand in awe of God's grace.

**Many: We honor and glorify God's name.**

One: For God does not hide or recoil from those who suffer.

**Many: When we call, God answers.**

One: The Lord hears when we call.

**All: Those who seek God will live in God forever.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“The God of Abraham Praise” #16

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*Sung a whole step lower than printed in hymnal*

“Glory Be to the Father” #734

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!

**\*Sharing Grace and Peace**

One: God’s Word is a word of forgiveness, assurance, and grace.

**Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

One: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

**Many: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Let us greet one another in fellowship.

**Message for God’s Children**

*After the Message for God’s Children, children PreK-2nd grade may attend Sunday School in the upstairs classroom (between the Sanctuary and the Nursery, opposite the office).*

*All children may remain in their pews during worship, use the Family Space in the Overflow Room in the back of the Sanctuary, or use the Nursery if they are younger than Kindergarten age. Worship Bags, “The Sunday Paper” coloring pages, and Ministry Card making kits are available in the back of the Sanctuary.*

**Mission Moment**

Kathy Kunkel

**Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #34

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!

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Sharing Prayer Requests and Praises**

*You are invited to take a Prayer Requests and Praises sheet from the pew rack in front of you to write your prayer requests and praises.*

*These will be collected by the ushers in a moment and shared with the congregation anonymously before our Preparation for Prayer*

**Preparation for Prayer (Moment of Silence)**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord’s Prayer**

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” #84

*Verses 1, 3, 4*

**Scripture**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (NRSV)

One: For the Word of God in Scripture,

For the Word of God among us,

For the Word of God within us,

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Message**

“Everlasting Covenant”

**Open Space**

During this time, you are invited to complete your Time and Talents form. This will assist our Talent Team and Church Council in planning our church’s ministries. Or, you may take your form home to complete there and use this time for prayer. Please return your form to the stand in the back of the Sanctuary after worship or to the church office.

There are a variety of worship and prayer stations situated throughout the Sanctuary. Feel free to use one, several, or none of them during this time. The singing bowl will chime when there are two minutes remaining in Open Space time.

## Serving Us Today: Sunday, March 13th, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Marian Mallory

Pianist—Pam Braunshausen

Sound System—Dick Dietz

Greeters—Bob and Geri Howieson

Head Usher—Ron Conrad

Coffee Hour Host—Maple River Youth Center

### Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship

9:00 a.m. Nursery/Toddler Care (*upstairs north end of hallway in the Nursery/Toddler Room*)

9:15 a.m. Sunday School during worship for grades PreK-2nd (*classroom A, upstairs across from office*)

10:00 a.m. Confirmation

10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Today's *Call to Worship* is based on material written by Anita Monro and posted on the *MAD-e-Lena* blog ([mad-e-lena.blogspot.com](http://mad-e-lena.blogspot.com)).

The **paraments** are purple during the season of Lent as a symbol of both the sovereignty of Christ and personal penitence. The season of Lent is bracketed by the mourning black paraments colors of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

## Worshipping With Children

**Children are always welcome** at The United Church!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Matthew 19:14)

During worship, several options are available for children:

*The Sunday Paper* is a coloring page based on the Scripture reading for each Sunday. Two versions are available, one for older and one for younger elementary aged children.

Ministry card decorating kits are also available, and a sign next to these kits lets children know to whom their card will be sent (e.g. homebound members, Treats for Troops recipients, etc.).

Worship Bags with creative supplies are located at the back of the Sanctuary.

The Nursery/Toddler Room for infants and toddlers (Kindergarten and younger) is available throughout the morning worship service and is located at the north end of the upstairs hallway.

The Family Space, located in the Overflow Room at the back of the Sanctuary, is for our families with infants and small children.

This space is available for families in addition to the Nursery so that families can both see and hear what's going on in worship.

### Care Connections

If you are in need of **wheelchair assistance** on Sunday mornings, please let us know by calling the church office at (507) 524-3141 ahead of time to make arrangements or you may have an usher assist you on Sunday morning when you arrive at the church. There is a ramp located on the east side of the church.

If you or a family member would like a **pastoral care visit** for any reason, or would like to be added to our **weekly prayer list**, please let us know! Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office. The church phone number is (507) 524-3141.

Pastor Ashley's phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is [pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org).

If you have a prayer request for the **Prayer Chain**, please call Karen Stanton at 327-8168 or Joyce Johnson at 524-3727. Please let them know your prayer request, including the name of the person to pray for, and whether you would like your request included in the church's public prayer list or if you'd prefer the request be kept privately within the prayer chain. There is also a prayer request submission form available on The United Church website under the "Ministries" tab.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, March 13th, 2016**

**Local Missions**

**Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf** is open Tuesdays from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-noon. Volunteers are always welcome! Please bring donations to church on the first Sunday of each month.

**The Maple River Youth Center:** The mission jar will be in the back of the Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month.

**About the Season of Lent**

The traditions of Lent are derived from the season's origin as a time when the church prepared candidates, or *catechumens*, for their baptism into the Body of Christ. It eventually became a season of preparation not only for catechumens but also for the whole congregation. Self-examination, study, fasting, prayer, and works of love are disciplines historically associated with Lent.

The theme of Lent is conversion, which is literally the "turning around" or reorientation of our lives towards God. Both as individuals and as a community, we look inward and reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus in his journey towards the cross. The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community.

On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the congregation as a symbol that we have come from dust and one day will return to dust. It is one of many Lenten and Easter customs that remind us of our historical connection with Jewish tradition. With this sobering reminder of life's fragility, we begin a spiritual quest that continues until the Easter Vigil, when new members of the church are often baptized and the entire congregation joins in a reaffirmation of baptismal vows. *Information from ucc.org.*

**Welcome to The United Church of Mapleton!**

This announcement insert includes information about upcoming church, community, and area events. Please also take advantage of the many opportunities listed here to serve our community!

**This Week at The United Church of Mapleton**

**Sunday, March 13th, 2016**

Sunday, March 13th, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Confirmation  
Monday, March 14th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship  
Tuesday, March 15th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, March 15th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting  
Tuesday, March 15th, 7:00 p.m. **Church Council**  
Wednesday, March 16th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT  
Thursday, March 17th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. MR Wrestling Banquet in Fellowship Hall  
Saturday, March 19th, 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday set-up

**Planning Ahead**

Sunday, March 20th, 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice  
Sunday, March 20th, 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Brunch  
Tuesday, March 22nd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, March 22nd, 1:00 p.m. Quilting  
Tuesday, March 22nd, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes workday  
Wednesday, March 23rd, 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper  
Wednesday, March 23rd, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service  
Thursday, March 24th, 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service  
Friday, March 25th, 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service  
Saturday, March 26th, 9:00 a.m.-noon Loaves & Fishes workday  
Saturday, March 26th, 4:00 p.m. Holy Saturday Vigil  
Tuesday, March 29th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, March 29th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting  
Sunday, April 3rd, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation  
Tuesday, April 5th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, April 5th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, March 13th, 2016**

**How to Contact Pastor Ashley**

Pastor Ashley's cell phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is [pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org). Her usual weekly schedule includes these times and places. *Monday* Sabbath. *Tuesday* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Pastors' Preaching Text Study Group in Mankato, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Maple River Youth Center. *Wednesday* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Maggie J's Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours) 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. church office, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study. *Friday* Sermon writing. At other times, she may be making pastoral visits or be serving elsewhere in the community. Please feel free to contact her for a visit or meeting!

**Sign-Up for Lay Readers and Ushers**

Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the main office. Thank you in advance for your service!

**Fellowship of Prayer**

After worship each Sunday of Lent, all are welcome to come to the Overflow Room immediately after worship to join in a brief time of devotions (with coffee and bars, too, of course). We will be using *Fellowship of Prayer*, a daily Lenten devotional written by Rev. Sarah Griffith Lund. Copies will be available to take home and use throughout the week.

**Easter Season Plants**

Please sign up on the sheet posted on the Sanctuary door to **purchase and bring in your own**, Easter lily, tulip, daffodil or hyacinth plants in (M) memory of, or in (H) honor of your loved ones. Please bring your plants to the church **by Sunday, March 20th or sometime during that week**. Please write your names under your plant. Thank you for helping beautify our Sanctuary for the Easter season!

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

Our Special Mission for the month of March is One Great Hour of Sharing. Please consider giving to this worthy mission.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
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**Thank You—The Oddfellows**

We would like to say thank you to the members of The United Church for their generous support of our annual pancake feed last Sunday. We express our appreciation for the use of the United Church facilities and we thank the Women's Fellowship for the use of the kitchen area. Because of your generosity, several area youth will have a great week this summer at **Camp FaHoCha**. Thanks so much from the Mapleton IOOF.

**Pancake Supper**

St. John Lutheran of Good Thunder is having their Annual All You Can Eat Pancake Supper on **Sunday, March 13th** from 4:30-7:00 p.m. We will be serving pancakes, sausage patties, applesauce, and beverages. It is a free-will donation.

**Mapleton Sertoma Club**

The Mapleton Sertoma Club is accepting letters of nomination for Service to Mankind. Please send your letter of nomination **by March 15th** to Louise Webb, PO Box 93, Mapleton, MN 56065.

**Maple River Loaves & Fishes**

The March Campaign is the only statewide food and fund drive that raises more than half the food distributed by the 300 food shelves. The "**Pack the Pews**" event will be the weekend of **March 19-20**. You are encouraged to bring a grocery bag of non-perishables to your worship service to be donated to Loaves and Fishes. The March campaign also matches the dollar amount donated throughout the month of March. **Remember, for every dollar you donate, we can buy \$10 worth of food** using our network which includes Second Harvest, Dietz Foods and other organizations.

**What to collect:**

**Food Donations** – Food shelves need all types of food, personal hygiene and cleaning products.

**Cash Donations** – Easier to collect and deliver. Cash also gives us more flexibility to acquire perishable items like fresh produce, meat and dairy products. Thank you! Maple River Loaves and Fishes, P.O. Box 227, Mapleton, MN 56065.

## In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Maple River Youth Center, Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf
- The local, regional, and national leaders of the church, including all ministers and missionaries
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living, a nursing home, or who are homebound, and all those who are caregivers
- Those who are grieving and mourning
- Those affected by mental illness, including anxiety and depression



### **Our church prayer list includes:**

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Kathy Cramer, Janie Firstbrook, Mary Beth Fritz, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Marian Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Stan Solie,
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Jack Madsen, Sean Mallory, Bill Pfeffer, Roberta Ward
- Gabe Samuelson, who is in Advance Individual Training for computers and communications for the Army Reserves in Augusta, Georgia through March
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- All those affected by the outbreak of the Zika virus and the serious health concerns suspected to be related to it
- All those affected by the drought in Ethiopia, which is the worst the country has seen in over fifty years and has affected more than 10 million people

### **The prayer requests and praises shared during last week's worship include:**

#### **Thanksgiving:**

- For Kathy Cramer's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday
- To God for the fun and entertainment of watching Maple River boys basketball team going to the state tournament

#### **Prayers:**

- For a fun and safe snowmobile trip for Ty Shuck and the snowmobile club
- For a grandson who is having much difficulty in his life and too full of a plate
- Continuing for Phyllis Lindemann, who is facing a possible lung transplant

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. Isaiah 55:6

### **Sunday:**

Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her. Mark 1:30–31

Benevolent Healer, you know the illnesses within your children. Take our hands, make us whole, help us face our fears. Heal us so that we may live the lives that you set forth for us with happiness and health. Amen.

### **Monday:**

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11 (NIV)

Teacher, we know that we are far from perfect. We stumble, we waiver, we doubt and do wrong. Yet in your eyes, and with your forgiveness, perfection is not required. We thank you for your saving grace and righteousness. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord. Psalm 31:24

Lord God, help us to make patience and waiting a part of our Lenten disciplines, knowing that all who wait on you renew their strength. In patience we experience that all things do good work for those who love you. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. Ephesians 6:15

O God, the good news of Jesus Christ is to be neither hoarded nor withheld. Give us, we ask, the courage to be your witnesses for love, justice, and peace by our words, our actions, and our examples to others. Amen.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Thursday:**

Just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.

Romans 5:18

Wondrous Creator, we seek the transformation that takes away our resentments, prejudices, and fears, so that we may live life more fully, always seeking ways in which we can be good neighbors and advocates for the voiceless. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

### **Friday:**

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

We open our hearts to you, dearest Friend; purify them with the refiner's fire, tenderize them with awareness of the needs of others, and stimulate them so that we may reach out in compassion to answer the calls of our neighbors' distress. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

I said, "I have toiled in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely the justice due to me is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." Isaiah 49:4 (NASB)

O Master Gardener, if the soil of our lives is to be receptive to the seed of your word, our lives must be fertilized with your love and grace to promote good and healthy spiritual growth. We want to produce good fruit for your kingdom. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

*Continue*