

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 7: 36-50 (alabaster jar)

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. ³⁷ And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸ She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." ⁴¹ "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little" ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Matthew 25: 35-40 (least of these)

³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

CHORAL RESPONSE

Hymn #274 Woman in the Night (vv. 2,4,5) HAIZ

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(After Children's Moment, children age 3 – 5th grade are invited to Children's Church in Room L8, located downstairs. Children will return to the Sanctuary to receive Communion with their families.)

SERMON

~ Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling

*HYMN #463 Lord, Speak to Me (vv. 1-4) CANONBURY

*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Family of faith,
we long to love others as God loves us,
but that work is easier said than done.
We lose our way.
We become distracted.
We grow fearful.
We need God's grace.
Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and abundantly given.
So join me in the Prayer of Confession.
Join me in being transformed.

***Merciful God,
did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?
Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?
Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?
Or did we cross the street?
Did we avert our eyes?
Did we come up with every excuse in the book?
God, we long to be people who love our neighbors
with the same overwhelming love that you have for them.
But we must admit, we have a long way to go.
Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear
get in the way of love.
Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.***

Faith family,
even when we act with judgment,
even when we are guided by fear,
even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,
God does not turn God's back on us.
So join me in this good-news declaration:
We are seen.
We are forgiven.
We are invited to try again.
Thanks be to God for this unending love.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Hear our prayer.**)*

Thanksgiving

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

Brother James' Air Mack Wilberg
The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want, He makes me down to lie in pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by. My soul He doth restore again, and me to walk doth make within the paths of blessedness, even for His own name's sake. Yea, though I pass through shadowed vale, yet will I fear no ill; for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still. My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows. Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me; and in my Father's heart always my dwelling place shall be.

*DOXOLOGY #296 Sing My Tongue, the Glorious Battle
Unto God, be praise and glory: to the Father and the Son, to the eternal Spirit honor now and evermore be done; praise and glory in the highest, while unending ages run.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

See Musical Setting E, pp. 24B-25C in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.
[We offer a gluten-free element option and always use grape juice, not wine]

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(spoken)*

RECEIVING COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

Fraction Anthem, Sanctus (Holy) Gerald R. Near
There is a Green Hill Far Away Bob Chilcott

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*HYMN #569 We've A Story to Tell to the Nations MESSAGE

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Postlude, in C Op. 28, No. 8 Christian Cappelen

Leading Today's Worship Service:
Preaching: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling
Pastors: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling, Rev. Stephanie Bekhor
Liturgist: Nina Mickle
Organist/Choirmaster: Jonathan Saint-Thomas
Children's Sharing: Linnea Carlson

Congregational Prayers

Healing and Sympathy:

~For Rev. Bruce Lugn, former member of Mount Olivet, who will have open heart surgery on March 4.

~For Ed Merry, Natalie Pathwick's father, who was in car accident and recovering from multiple surgeries. Ed is a retired UM Local Pastor.

~Healing prayers for Gisela.

~For the family and friends of Craig Johnson, Susan Leland's cousin, who died last week after a long struggle with mental health.

For those battling cancer and long-term illness: Heather Weir, Karen Watkins, Elizabeth Carnahan, Keith Fairbrother, Jason Micheli, Sally, Christine, Yarikza, Kate Heavner, Peter Joyce, Cindy, Tom Benson, Kay Lewis, Justin, Kent Sapp, Latifa Sharif, Rozanne, Dena, Mary Hays, Susan Newton, Thomas Greving, Sue Mink, Cobi O'Brien, Chi Bahn.

Prayers for the World:

~For the people of the Northeast U.S., where a snowstorm brought up to two feet of snow this week.

~For peace throughout the world.

To submit a prayer concern go to our website mountolivetumc.com/prayers or use the back of the attendance card.

Join us for Coffee Fellowship by exiting the side door to the gathering area.

* * *

Please stand, as able, for those acts of worship marked with an asterisk.*

Words in bold type indicate a congregational response.

Register your attendance using the QR code below or by using the attendance card located in the pew rack.



Announcements

Lenten Offerings 2026

Our Lenten Offerings this year will benefit two organizations, Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) and UMC Apportionments.

OAR is a community-based nonprofit organization that envisions a safe and thriving community where those impacted by the legal system enjoy equal civil and human rights.

UMC Apportionments is dedicated to outreach ministries overseen by the Virginia Annual Conference.

You can donate at the giving link on our website or use the Lenten Offering envelope in the pew rack.

Lenten Study

Tell Me Something Good! Can we be "good news" people in a world too often burdened by bad news? Join us for this five-session Lenten study, as we delve in to the good news of the gospel through scripture, art, poetry and hymns. Thursdays, February 26 - March 26, at 7:15 on Zoom. Contact Rev. Stephanie Bekhor for more information at sbekhor@mtolivet-umc.org.

Better Together

Join us for Better Together, TODAY, March 1, 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall. As we face so many challenges and anxieties from federal jobs to immigration, to LGBTQ rights and DEI, how can we support and encourage each other? We'll gather after worship at the Way, share a meal, and discuss ways that we can respond, rest, and resist. We'll conclude our time together with meditation and ways to ground ourselves in hope. Pizza lunch will be provided!

Bethune-Cookman University Gospel Choir

Join us for an inspiring performance by the nationally renowned Bethune-Cookman University Gospel Choir on Tuesday, March 3, 7 PM in the Sanctuary. This powerful program weaves together songs of praise, introspection, and rejoicing that reflect the depth and joy of the gospel tradition. Come experience an evening of soaring voices, spiritual reflection, and jubilant celebration.

Potluck & Playdate

Join us on Friday, March 6 at 5:30 PM for Potluck and Playdate. We have a potluck supper at a church member's home and enjoy some relaxing conversation. Everyone is welcome. Register at the link on our website.

Find additional announcements and more on our website mountolivetumc.com or subscribe to our weekly e-news.



MOUNT
OLIVET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 1, 2026, 9:15 am

Welcome to worship at Mount Olivet! Our Lenten theme this year is "Tell Me Something Good." This Sunday the good news is great love of God and neighbor. We are thinking about God's extravagant love for us and the bold way we are to love others in God's name!

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Andante Grazioso

Kate Emma Boundy

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tell me something good!

God loves you more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

This is good news indeed!

Let us worship our compassionate God.

*HYMN #384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (alt. tune)

HYFRYDOL

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Good news God,

speak louder than the news updates.

Speak louder than our mental distractions.

Speak louder than our anger and louder than our fear.

God, speak loudly to us today,

because we long to hear your good news once more.

With hope we pray, amen.