

Word

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

SCRIPTURE

Mark 6: 32-44

³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶ send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." ³⁷ But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸ And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And all ate and were filled, ⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Ephesians 3: 20-21 (accomplish abundantly)

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

CHORAL RESPONSE

Hymn #381 Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead us (vv. 1 & 4)

William Bradley Roberts

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. Lan Davis Wilson

*HYMN #620 One Bread, One Body ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, we are like the disciples.

The day that Jesus fed 5,000, his disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd's hunger. They told Jesus to send the crowds away. We often do the same. Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around, but when we run into issues, we often cannot imagine how we could play a part.

That is why we need the Prayer of Confession.

For in this prayer, we remember that we can make a difference. So friends, join me in this moment of truth telling. Join me in prayer:

Holy God,

with you the impossible is possible.

5,000 can be fed.

The blind can see.

The hopeless can find hope.

With you the impossible is possible,

but we are quick to forget that.

We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves

that nothing can be done.

We forget that you empowered the disciples

to feed the crowd.

We forget that you are always with us.

Forgive our small-minded ways.

Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.

But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

Family of faith,

no matter how many mistakes the disciples made,

Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them.

Jesus still called them beloved.

The same is true for you and me,

so hear and believe this good news:

today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God.

We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone.

What good, good news. Amen!

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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is, Hymn #138 (vv. 1,2,3,6)

Dan Forrest

*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 pp. 13-14 in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.

[We offer a gluten-free element option and always use grape juice, not wine]

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

RECEIVING COMMUNION

Fraction Anthem, Sanctus (Holy)

Gerald R. Near

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Bless it is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Table of Grace

Pepper Choplin

Table of grace, table of mercy; see, there is room, there is plenty for all. Rise up and come to this healing place. Come to the table of grace. Table of grace for all who are weary, those who may struggle and need holy rest. Love will refresh, and the spirit will raise. Come to the table of grace. Receive the bread like holy manna. Be nourished by heaven above. Receive the cup, like living water filled by God's timeless love. Table of grace, generous, bounty, offering freely forgiveness and love; Come and discover God's merciful ways. Come to the table of grace. Come, there is plenty with rest for the weary. Come to the table of grace.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Sending

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

*HYMN #395 Take Time to Be Holy

HOLINESS

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Concluding Voluntary

Cuthbert Harris

Leading Today's Worship Service:

Preaching: Rev. Lan Davis Wilson

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling, Rev. Stephanie Bekhor

Liturgist: Kelly George

Organist/Choirmaster: Jonathan Saint-Thomas

Children's Sharing: Linnea Carlson

Acolyte: Alahnie Sherman

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

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



Congregational Prayers

Healing and Sympathy:

~For the family and friends of Ed Kimmel, who died on February 23.

For those battling cancer and long-term illness: Heather Weir, Karen Watkins, Elizabeth Carnahan, 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.

Thanksgiving:

Prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of Josephine Louise Hempel on February 28, daughter of Sam & Claire Hempel and little sister of Harriet.

Prayers for the World:

~For peace between the United States and Iran.
~For an end to wars around the world.

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

* * *

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

Words in bold type indicate a congregational response.

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.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 4, 11 AM

It's time for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt! We're gathering at beautiful Woodlawn Park (1325 N. Buchanan Street) to hunt for all the best goodies! Children will be divided by age - but don't be late because we have some expert egg hunters and it goes by fast. Bring a basket and invite your friends. (We may even have a special guest stop by!) Parking is available in the church lot and it's a short walk down the block to Woodlawn Park. Please check your child's eggs for allergens.

Announcements (continued)

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 29

Regular services at 9:15 AM (Traditional) and 11:15 AM (the Way).

Maundy Thursday, Communion and Tenebrae Service

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 PM

Traditional Communion and Tenebrae service. Tenebrae (the Latin word for darkness) is a service held during the three days preceding Easter Day, and characterized by gradual extinguishing of candles, and by a loud noise taking place in total darkness near the end of the service.

Easter Morning

Sunday, April 5

Traditional Worship at 9:15 AM, Sanctuary

A festive service with choir and brass. This service will be live-streamed. Children will be invited to Children's church after the children's message to hear the Easter story and make a craft.

Easter Breakfast, 10 AM - 11:15 AM

Join us for Easter breakfast! Please register at the Signupgenius on our website so that we will have enough food to serve and if you would like to make a breakfast casserole or help serve breakfast.

Family Worship at 11 AM, Sanctuary

Child-friendly Easter worship experience.

The Way (Modern worship) at 11:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Children will be invited to Children's church after the children's message to hear the Easter story and make a craft.

Children's Activities from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Join us for fun activities on the playground including, glitter tattoos, crafts and a petting zoo.

Nursery for kids 3 and under available from 9 AM until 12:30 PM.

Invitation to Hear Pastor Sara!

Pastor Sara will guest preach at Lomax AME Zion (2704 24th Road South, Arlington, VA 22206) on Wednesday, March 11, 7 PM for their 2026 Lenten Preaching Series service on "The Passions of Christ." All are invited to attend!

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



MOUNT
OLIVET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 8, 2026, 9:15 am

Welcome to worship at Mount Olivet! Today we welcome Rev. Lan Davis Wilson to the pulpit. Rev. Wilson was appointed the Director of Belonging and Advocacy of the Virginia Conference on July 1, 2025. In this role, he will lead the charge in developing and implementing accountability structures for intersectional justice, equity, and inclusion in all facets of the Virginia Conference.

Gathering

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

PRELUDE

Pastorale from Seven Sketches

Kate Emma Boundy

*CALL TO WORSHIP

If you need good news,
settle into this space.

We have good news to share.

If you need a word of hope,
then trust us when we say,

there is hope enough to go around.

If you need a glimmer of joy,
then you're in luck!

We have resilient joy abounding.

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,
then know that this is God's house.

This is the good news of the gospel.

God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.

Let us worship our with-us God!

*HYMN #292 What Wondrous Love Is This WONDROUS LOVE

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God,

we could press our ear to the page,

hoping to hear you more clearly.

We could silence all the alarms and notifications,

hoping to catch a murmur of your voice.

We could still our beating hearts,

and still we might miss your voice.

So today we pray, open up space in our hearts,

in our spirits, in our minds,

to feel your presence among us.

With you, anything is possible.

We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.