

† Please stand as you are able. People are invited to say **the words in bold aloud.**  
*You are invited to fill out the prayer and attendance cards in the buckets. During Prayers of the People, anyone is invited to offer a 15-30 second prayer.*

**Prelude** Desiree Davis-Omburo

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Chiming the Trinity**

### **Call to Worship**

In this place, the community of faith is reminded of the promise:

**God's love endures forever!**

In spite of our impatient grumbling, despite our attraction to the shadows:

**Christ's light shines in us!**

When we think our hands our empty, when we have no music in our souls:

**the Spirit fills us with glad songs, and creates us for good works!**

†**Opening Hymn** "For the Healing of the Nations" **UMH 428**

*After the opening hymn, children ages 0-4 may go with nursery volunteers or return to their seats.*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**God, you sent your Son, Jesus, because you so loved the world. Shine a light into our minds and hearts this day. Breathe anew into these words that they may become a Living Word for us today. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading** Numbers 21:4-9 Jan Schwarze

**Gospel Reading** John 3:14-21

Reader: this is the word of God for us the people of God, **thanks be to God!**

### **Prayer of Confession—Thom Shuman**

Your Light of the world has come, Gracious God, but we admit we preferred the shadow over the light. In the dark, we boast of our achievements, can grumble of our unhappiness with you, and we can give into our natural impulses toward bitterness and judgment of those we despise, instead of living into your call to be agents of love, peace and hope. Forgive us, Lord. Free us from our sins to live into the light of your joy; raise us up, as your children, so we may remember to

serve others; shower us with the grace, the hope, the peace, and the eternal life you have brought through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### **Litany of Forgiveness**

Let the community of faith say so:

**God's love endures forever!**

Let those gathered in grace say so:

**God's love endures forever!**

Let those gathered from all parts of the world say so:

**God's love endures forever!**

This is the good news for us:

**God's love endures forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### †**Passing of the Peace**

**Sermon** "God Loves You... *Like it or Not!*" Pastor Adam

†**Hymn** "What Wondrous Love is This" **UMH 292**

### **Prayers of the People**

*If you have a prayer for the congregation, the neighborhood, or our world, you may come up to offer a 15-30 second prayer at the lectern or using a mic.*

### **Tithes and Offerings**

**The Doxology (UMH 94)** Desiree Davis-Omburo

### **Dedicating our gifts to God**

†**Closing Song** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" **UMH 206**

### †**Benediction**

### †**Chiming the Trinity**

†**Postlude** Desiree Davis-Omburo

### Announcements

- **Tonight @ 5-7 PM**, we'll be having a **church-wide fire pit POTLUCK night with Avivamiento!** Everyone is invited. There will be a rain plan for indoors, so this is a rain or shine event. Please, plan to join us that night for s'mores, hot dogs, songs, lawn games, and conversation with Avivamiento. It is a potluck, so please bring a dish with you.
- We'll have a **Maundy Thursday** potluck and simple service of Holy Communion and foot-washing on **Thursday, March 28 @ 6 PM**. **There is a sign-up sheet in on the white table by the front entrance—please RSVP to come to Maundy Thursday and to bring a Mediterranean dish!**
- We will also have a **joint Good Friday Service** this year with All Saints UMC and Christus Victor **@ All Saints UMC**. Service will start **@ 6:30 PM** with **Stations of the Cross @ 6 PM**. Lastly, we will be having a **Easter Brunch @ 9:30 AM** before our **Easter Service @ 10:30 AM**. There will be an **Easter Egg hunt @ 9:15 AM** for the children.
- **Lectio Divina** small group is on Wednesdays @ noon in-person and online to read a passage of scripture using an ancient practice. Join us for your lunch break! Zoom Meeting ID: 918 5427 7324. **If you are interested in attending Lectio Divina and would like to receive a reminder the day of Lectio Divina, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the white table by the front entrance.**
- If you feel interested or called to be a lay liturgist (and help Pastor Adam lead worship), please let Pastor Adam know!
- Jarrod Davis, Creation Care Coordinator for the North and Western Carolina Conferences, and John Rees, Energy Engineer, will be joining us on **Thursday, March 21 @ noon** in the fellowship hall to talk with us about what we can do as individuals and as a congregation to lower our carbon footprint. We will be having a simple meal. Join us!
- During Prayers of the People, anyone is invited to come forward and offer a 15-30 second prayer for the congregation, our neighbors, and/or the world.

# Parkwood United Methodist Church



**"Nicodemus" by Henri Ossawa Tanner, 1859-1937**

## God Loves You Like it or Not!

Sunday, March 10, 2024 • 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent