

† Please stand as you are able

Please fill out the attendance and prayer cards located in the pews to help us take attendance, choosing the card that's most appropriate for you. You may place it in the offering plate, or if you have a prayer concern, you can hold onto it for the Prayers of the People.

*Prelude*

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Chiming the Trinity*

**Call to Worship** *Psalm 92 (Eugene Petersen's the Message)*

<sup>1-2</sup> God, it seems you've been our home forever;

long before the mountains were born,

**Long before you brought earth itself to birth,**

**from "once upon a time" to "kingdom come"—you are God.**

<sup>3-5</sup> So don't return us to mud, saying,

"Back to where you came from!"

**Patience! You've got all the time in the world—whether**

**a thousand years or a day, it's all the same to you.**

Are we no more to you than a wispy dream,

no more than a blade of grass

**That springs up gloriously with the rising sun**

**and is cut down without a second thought?**

<sup>12-17</sup> Oh! Teach us to live well!

Teach us to live wisely and well!

**Come back, God—how long do we have to wait?—**

**and treat your servants with kindness for a change.**

Surprise us with love at daybreak;

then we'll skip and dance all the day long.

**Make up for the bad times with some good times;**

**we've seen enough evil to last a lifetime.**

Let your servants see what you're best at—

the ways you rule and bless your children.

**And let the loveliness of our Lord, our God, rest on us,**

**confirming the work that we do.**

All: Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

† *Opening Hymn*

This is a Day of New Beginnings

UMH 383

† *Hymn*

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH 519

*Prayer for Illumination*

**Holy God, you not only spoke through angels and prophets from long ago, but you still speak to us today. Open our ears and hearts to hear and receive the word you have for us today. Amen.**

*Gospel Reading*

Luke 4:14-21

Rosemary Marlowe

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

*Prayer of Confession*

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

**Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.**

**Reminds us that we need Sabbath rest.**

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

**Forgive us for creating so many distractions.**

**Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.**

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

**Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.**

**Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.**

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

**Forgive us. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.**

*Words of Forgiveness*

Family of faith, even when we're not at our best at caring for ourselves or others, God's faithfulness and love never waivers. Even when we are weary, God never grows weary of us. Receive the grace and new beginning God has for you today.

**We receive it. We believe we can be made whole, again. We trust that we are loved, claimed, and forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

† *Passing of the Peace*

*At this time, you may greet your neighbor with signs of peace*

*Offering and Song*

Spirit of the Living God

UMH 393

*The Doxology (to the tune on UMH 95)*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures high and low.**

**Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit One.**

**Amen.**



**Old Testament Reading**

Exodus 20:1-17

Rev. Claire Clyburn

**Sermon**

Rev. Claire Clyburn

† **Song**

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

**TFWS 2107**

**Prayers of the People**

*At this time, if you have a prayer concern you would like for us to pray for in this service, please have a prayer card filled out and hold it up for an usher to collect. Someone can get the children from the nursery to join us for the final song.*

† **Closing Hymn**

Take My Life and Let it Be

**UMH 399**

† **Blessing One Another**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.  
May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.  
May He bring You home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you. May He bring you home rejoicing once again into these doors.

† **Chiming the Trinity**

† **Postlude**

*There is a Safe Sanctuary training immediately following this service in the fellowship hall.*

# Parkwood United Methodist Church



“The Poor Invited to the Sabbath Feast” by Jesus MAFA

## Commanded to Rest

**Sunday, January 26, 2024 • 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**