

† Please stand as you are able

Prelude

Welcome

Chiming the Trinity

Call to Worship—*Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (CEB)*

Don't get upset over evildoers;

don't be jealous of those who do wrong,

**² because they will fade fast, like grass;
they will wither like green vegetables.**

³ Trust the LORD and do good;

live in the land, and farm faithfully.

⁴ Enjoy the LORD,

and he will give what your heart asks.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD!

Trust him! He will act

**⁶ and will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
your justice like high noon.**

⁷ Be still before the LORD,

and wait^[a] for him.

**Don't get upset when someone gets ahead—
someone who invents evil schemes.**

⁸ Let go of anger and leave rage behind!

Don't get upset—it will only lead to evil.

**⁹ Because evildoers will be eliminated,
but those who hope in the LORD—
they will possess the land.**

¹⁰ In just a little while the wicked won't exist!

If you go looking around their place,
they won't be there.

**¹¹ But the weak will inherit the land;
they will enjoy a surplus of peace.**

**³⁹ The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD;
he is their refuge in times of trouble.**

**⁴⁰ The LORD will help them and rescue them—
rescue them from the wicked—and he will save them
because they have taken refuge in him.**

Opening Prayer

Inexhaustible source of love and life, be with us in our time of worship as we seek the love it takes to walk in the ways of your Son. Help us love our enemies and bless those who wrong us, for we cannot do so alone. Teach us the joy of treating others with all the same respect and goodness with which we hope to be treated. May our every word and deed make known that we are your beloved children and vessels of your love. Amen.

† *Opening Hymn*

Now the Green Blade Riseth

UMH 311

The children ages 0-5 may be dismissed with volunteers to the nursery, and parents need to sign their children in and out.

† *Hymn*

O God of Every Nation

UMH 435

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 1:1-9

Rosemary Marlowe

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:27-36

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

Prayer of Confession—B.J. Beu from Ministrymatters.com

Teacher of hard truths, it is difficult to let go of our anger toward those who prosper through deceit and unscrupulous ways; it is not easy to make ourselves believe that the meek will inherit the earth, when they are being crushed by the unjust systems and leaders. We long to see the vindication of the righteous and the prosperity of those who work selflessly to bring your realm here on earth. We yearn for the day when all people will treat one another as they wish to be treated. Help us live into that day, Holy One, even when it is difficult, that your love might shine like the sun through our lives and our ministries. Amen.

Words of Assurance (Luke 6)

When we treat others as we would have them treat us, Jesus calls us beloved children of the Most High. If God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked, how much more will God be kind to those who love the Lord and seek to live the Golden Rule? Rest in this assurance and be at peace.

† **Passing of the Peace**

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

Offering and Song

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love TFWS 2223



PUMC QR Code

Sermon

Rev. Adam Benson

Prayers of the People

At this time, if you have a person or concern weighing on you that you would like for us to pray, please hold up your prayer card in the air and an usher will be by to collect it.

† **Closing Hymn**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH 519

† **Announcements and Benediction**

Rev. Adam Benson

† **Chiming the Trinity**

† **Postlude**

Parkwood United Methodist Church

“Darkness cannot drive
out darkness; only light
can do that. Hate cannot
drive out hate; only
love can do that.”

—
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Going Where God Calls

Sunday, February 23, 2025 • 7th Sunday after Epiphany