



If any want to  
become my followers,  
let them deny themselves  
and take up their cross  
and follow me.

Mark 8:34, NRSV

*Please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM*

Parking lot worship for

**Sunday, February 28, 2021**

**Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

Thanks for attending our drive-in worship service. Please remember the guidelines below:

- The church will be open for restroom use only.
- The rules for social distancing remain in effect. Stay a minimum of 6 feet from each other and wear a mask that covers both your mouth and nose.
- Scrip will be available for purchase before and after worship. We ask that when purchasing scrip cards that only one person be at the scrip table at a time.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather together, seeking life in all its fullness.

**All: We gather in God's name, longing for what is real and true.**

One: We gather, drawn by the words of our Creator and Redeemer.

**All: We gather to worship our Lord, who is worthy of all glory and praise.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Loving and holy God, Our Creator, Christ, and Guide, you speak the words of life to us. In you we find our hearts' desire; by your grace we are saved. When the way forward is unclear, you shed light. When we are troubled, you give peace. When times are difficult, you stir courage and hope. Our deepest longing is to know you, and to be known by you. In these difficult days, we praise you for your faithfulness to us. Draw near to us in our time of worship, O God, and open the way before us, so that we may follow Jesus without wavering, trusting him to lead us. Amen**

SONG #322

“I have Decided to Follow Jesus”

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, although following you brings joy, we confess the way is sometimes hard for us. There are times we get tired and would eagerly settle for an easier road. Some days we find the task of loving others hard. Sometimes we choose anger over forgiveness, or ignore the needs of our neighbors. Forgive us when our commitment to you wavers. Forgive us when we take that easier path. Stir the embers of our devotion and kindle a brighter flame. Strengthen our determination to follow where you lead and renew our energy to serve in Jesus' name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. We are justified by God's grace which has come to us through Jesus Christ. By grace, we are forgiven and set free to find new life in Christ. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

RESPONSE

“Gloria Patri”

READING OF SCRIPTURE

**Mark 8:31-38**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

SERMON

SONG #537

“Lift High the Cross”

PASTORAL PRAYER...LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

L: Dare this week to follow where Jesus leads. Dare to love the unlovable and care about others.

**P: We want to follow in the footsteps of Christ. We want the poor to eat and be satisfied.**

L: Do not be ashamed to challenge values of our culture. Dare to question all that denies God's reign.

**P: We want to live with faith, hope and Love. We want to extend God's rule to all people.**

L: The promises of God are for you and all. God will make you exceedingly fruitful.

**P: We will trust the promises of God. We will go out and take up our crosses. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

**Joys:**

**Families who have lost loved ones:**

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Warren Fidlin

Macullen Schnell (friend of Tasha Rabe)

Dan Wempner

Ross Westphalen

Julia

Theo Marcus

Bonnie Neuhaus

Karen Schlegel

Jane Markelz

Dale Horneck

Olivia Marie

Jessica Horneck

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer, Carol Meiselwitz,

**Other concerns:**

Division in the U.S.

The people of Myanmar

Health Care workers

Those who are out of work

Racial Justice and equality in our country

Those whose businesses are struggling

People who live in places where violence prevails.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Security System**
- Our current security system is obsolete and non-functional. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has selected a bid of \$3957.45 from Tantrum Audio. If you would like to make a designated donation to this system, please put it in a separate envelope or write "Security system" on the memo line of your check. Any funds received that extend beyond the cost of the project will be added to the building maintenance fund.

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 2/28:** 9:30a Drive-In worship; *Happy Birthday Karen Schlegel and Alexis Horneck!*

**Monday 3/1:** *Happy Birthday Peyton Koppenhaver and Grayson Hoban!*

**Tuesday 3/2:** *Happy Anniversary Bob & Jane Markelz!*

**Wednesday 3/3:** 6:30pm Confirmation (Virtual); *Happy Birthday Oliver Krueger! Happy Anniversary Matt & Jodi Moioffer!*

**Thursday 3/4:** *Happy Anniversary Gary & Lynette Steinhardt!*

**Friday 3/5:**

**Saturday 3/6:** *Happy Birthday Mason Wempner!*

**Sunday 3/7:** 9:30a Drive-In worship w/ Communion; *Happy Birthday Dylan Jeanty!*

**Pantry item: Box of Pasta, Noodles, Rice or Crackers**