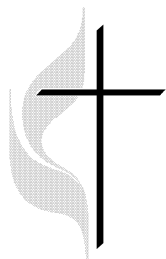


*Mt. Pocono United Methodist Church*

*Traditional Service*



*Third Sunday  
After the Epiphany  
January 24th, 2021*

*Mt. Pocono United Methodist Church*

*\*You are invited to stand as we praise God.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CENTERING MUSIC** “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” UMH 361

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy wounded side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
save from wrath and make me pure.

2 Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to the cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyes shall close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Gather this day in silence and hope

**P: We wait for God's word for us.**

L: Let your hearts and spirits be open.

**P: God is our strength and salvation.**

L: Wait patiently for the Lord.

**P: With willing hearts and spirits we wait for the Lord.**

**AMEN.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Abide By Me" UMH 700

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need thy presence every passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

**\*OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)**

**Gracious Christ, you came to the fishermen when the prophet John was taken away. Come to us now, as we fear losses of our own. Grant us courage to cast aside the nets that bind us, to follow you into true freedom and newness of life. Help us to be faithful disciples, that we might inspire others to follow in your ways. Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE TO PEACE:**

1 I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus -  
no turning back, no turning back.

2 The world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me -  
no turning back, no turning back.

3 Though none go with me, still I will follow,  
though none go with me, still I will follow,  
though none go with me, still I will follow—  
no turning back, no turning back.

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*UMH 95*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him,  
all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye  
heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Amen.**

**\*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS & OFFERTORY PRAYER (UNISON)** Everlasting Father, thank you that you are the light of the world, guiding our steps on your path. Your word says that the earth is yours, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to you. We recognize everything we have belongs to you. May God the Father prepare our journey, Jesus the Son guide our footsteps and the Holy Spirit watch over us, on every path that we follow. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

**SCRIPTURE** Mark 1: 14-20 *New Testament*  
**MESSAGE** Now is the Time Pastor Bob

<sup>14-15</sup> After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: “Time’s up! God’s kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message.”

<sup>16-18</sup> Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew net-fishing. Fishing was their regular work. Jesus said to them, “Come with me. I’ll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I’ll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass.” They didn’t ask questions. They dropped their nets and followed.

<sup>19-20</sup> A dozen yards or so down the beach, he saw the brothers James and John, Zebedee’s sons. They were in the boat, mending their fishnets. Right off, he made the same offer. Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands, and followed.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**RESPONSE(S)** Lord in your mercy; hear our prayers, Lord for this joy, hear our praise

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “Blessed Be the Tie Binds” UMH 557

1. Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.

2. Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.

3. We share each other's woes,  
our mutual burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.

4. When we asunder part,  
it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart,  
and hope to meet again.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** Kurt Faussette