

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances

CENTERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Pastor Michael

We are standing on holy ground! The Spirit calls us to proclaim God's name to all generations. We are standing on holy ground! Jesus calls us from the cross: come and follow me. We are standing on holy ground! Let us worship our Lord together.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Gloria Jones

Praise the Lord. Give thanks for all the wonderful works of God. Sing a new song of praise to the God of all peoples. Proclaim God's name to all the world. We are God's chosen people; God is with us always. Let our hearts rejoice, for the Lord is God. Praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER:

Pastor Michael

SCRIPTURE READING: *Romans 12:9-21*

Gloria Jones

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will pile burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"*

Mary Frances Gunn

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Gloria Jones

God of Mystery, we are constantly amazed by the depth and breadth of your love. Over and over again, you turn our expectations inside out and upside down. And still we don't understand the radical nature of your grace, that you give us all of the tools we need, that though the solid foundation of your love, we find strength to follow your call as true disciples of Jesus Christ. Surprise us again, O God. Surprise us again. In the Name of Christ our Lord, we pray. AMEN

MOMENTS OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF ASSURANCE

Gloria Jones

The God who brought our ancestors out of slavery will not desert us. God has promised to be with us throughout all generations. Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice, for God is with us!

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 16:21-28

Pastor Michael

SERMON:

"Acceptance is the Answer"

Pastor Michael

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mary Frances

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Michael

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Michael

*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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into
temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

BENEDICTION

Pastor Michael

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC as they join us for worship.

We need volunteers to be liturgist for our services. Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you would be willing to help with this. Also looking for people to offer special music to enhance our worship experience.
