



Welcome to Worship

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Lent and Communion Sunday

Worship Theme: Being in Relationship

***Please stand as you are able.**

PRELUDE

Compassion Hymn by K. and K. Getty and S. Townend

WELCOME

Pastor Karen Evenson

INTROIT

Gratitude by Brandon Lake
Darby Burton

JOINING OF NEW MEMBERS

*HYMN

Gather Us In (TFWS 2236 v 1, 2, 4)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Eternal God, then, and now, you are with us.

All: Open our hearts to your comforting presence.

Leader: Living God, as we sit today with Mary at the feet of Jesus, you welcome our gifts.

All: Open our hearts to your transforming love.

Leader: Compassionate God, as we come to your table, you share yourself with us.

All: Open our hearts to your extravagant grace.

OPENING PRAYER

God, be with us in this place, this sanctuary, this house, this home and let us receive you with a lavish, extravagant, *prodigal* welcome. You are the Restorer of our fortunes, the Promise of new life – and we pour out our praise for you! Fill this room with your Spirit and fill our hearts with your presence, love, and grace, not just in this time and place but in all times and in all places, so that as we celebrate the great things you have done for us, we may also embody all that you are. In the name of Christ, Amen.

KIDS MESSAGE

(Kids of all ages are invited to join the pastor up front)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Speak Jesus by Charity Gayle
UMCA Praise Team ~ Kelvin Paye, Precious Lackay, and Steve Moen

A MOMENT TO SHARE THE STORY

*HYMN

My Jesus, I Love Thee (UMH 172)

SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:1-8 (NRSVUE)

MESSAGE

“Now...and Later”
Pastor Karen Evenson

*COMMUNION HYMN

One Bread, One Body (UMH 620 v 1)

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our Creator. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

BLESSING OF THE BREAD & CUP

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & SHARING OF THE CUP

OFFERING DURING COMMUNION

Draw Me Close To You by Michael W. Smith
UMCA Praise Team ~ Kelvin Paye, Precious Lackay, and Steve Moen

*LENTEN DOXOLOGY

Praise God, Throughout These Forty Days

*THE LORD’S PRAYER

*MUSICAL BENEDICTION

Aaron’s Blessing

Call and Response; text based on Numbers 6:24-26

(music and arrangement by Fernando Ortega; used in worship by permission from the artist)

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Will Extol Thee by Steven Scott

April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40

“Here Comes Jesus!”

Message by Pastor Karen Evenson

WORSHIP NOTES:

Worship Hospitality Team

Choral Conductor ~ George Chu
Coffee/Donut Steward ~ Candy and Dave Gislason
Communion Servers ~ Abigail Keckhafer, Dave Panter, and Elaine and Tom Collison
Communion Steward ~ Jim January
Deaconess ~ Kim Harris
Greeters ~ Bill and Margaret Ekstrum
Music Ensembles ~ Kathy Chojnacki
Nursery Coordinator and Volunteer ~ Meredith Berry and Sarah Dhein
Organist ~ Marilyn Tice
Pastor ~ Rev. Karen Evenson
Praise Team Coordinator ~ Kelvin Paye
Scripture Reader ~ Bridgett Ansong
Sunday School Teacher and Assistant ~ Heidi Willenbring and Larry Gronewold
Ushers ~ David Blincow, Gail Sanstad, Joyce Buffington, Roxy Crane and Mark Worst
Welcome Center ~ Bev and Dean Summerbell
Worship Tech ~ Dallas Berry

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

UMCA Office Hours: 10:00am - 2:00pm ~ Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
Or by appointment, please contact us at:
Phone: 763-421-2378 | Email: umcanoka@gmail.com

Tuesday, April 8, 2025	7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, April 9, 2025	10:30am New Testament Study - Rev. Stephen Perry 5:30pm Community Dinner; 6:15pm Lenten Wednesday Service 6:45pm Youth Group 6:45pm "The Third Day" Book Class 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 10, 2025	8:00am Thursday Book Group at Bakers Square 9:30am Bring Your Bible ~ In-Person & Zoom
Saturday, April 12, 2025	10:00am-1:00pm United for the Community Eggstravaganza
Sunday, April 13, 2025	SUNDAY SERVICE 9:30am Worship (In-Person & Online) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Jubilee Bells Rehearsal 11:30pm Confirmation Session

**Scan QR Code to connect to our website for more information
on the church, to donate, or view our weekly bulletin:**



APRIL Ministry Highlights

Community Ministries:

**Alexandra House, Emma Norton,
Family Promise and HOPE 4 Youth**



The mission of Alexandra House is to empower victims of domestic and sexual violence, and inspire social change through education, support, and advocacy.



Emma Norton

The mission of Emma Norton is to provide transformational housing and growth for women and families on their journey of recovery.



The mission of Family Promise in Anoka County is empowering families experiencing housing insecurity to build a foundation of lasting independence.



The mission of HOPE 4 Youth is to provide pathways to end youth homelessness.

A Lenten Doxology

Praise God through-out these for - ty days. Praise

Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spir-it who im -

parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A - men.

WORDS: G. W. Dub Shepherd, 2006
MUSIC: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

OLD 100TH
LM

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a web site.

Aaron's Blessing

Call and Response; text based on Numbers 6:24-26

(music and arrangement by Fernando Ortega; used in worship by permission from the artist)

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord make His face to shine on you
And be gracious to you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May He keep you in perfect Peace

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord make His face to shine on you
And be gracious to you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May He keep you in perfect peace

Some Musical Notes for Today

The text of **My Jesus, I Love Thee** was likely written at the conversion of author William Ralph Featherstone (1846-1873) when he was a teenager. The simplicity and sincerity of the text has resonated with Christians for well over 150 years, particularly as a hymn of invitation or a prayer hymn. The Rev. Carlton Young, editor of the *UM Hymnal*, suggests that it was composed sometime between the author's conversion in 1858 and when it was included in *The London Hymn Book* (1864).

Although made popular by Michael W. Smith, **Draw Me Close** was written by Kelly Carpenter, a Vineyard worship pastor, in January 1994. Recalling the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10: 40-42 NLT) and Jesus' reminder to be more concerned about being close to Him than getting things done, Carpenter has said, "that if the *doing* is all we are focused on, then our relationship with God suffers." He had come to a point in ministry, when he was so focused on *doing* ministry that he'd lost some of his close relationship with God; it was during that season of his life that he wrote this song.

Gratitude by Brandon Lake was released on June 3, 2022, as the third single from his second studio album, *House of Miracles* (2020). Lake co-wrote the song with Benjamin Hastings and Dante Bowe and shared in an interview with *Billboard* magazine that it came about during a trip to Australia. During a writing session with Benjamin Hastings, they discussed how they had little to offer God that felt impressive; we simply offer ourselves to God, which felt humbling, and this inspired the lyrics of the song.

Fernando Ortega is a classically trained pianist, singer, songwriter, and worship leader, who grew up in New Mexico near the Rio Grande. He is the product of eight generations of family hailing from Chimayo, New Mexico. "Ortega's approach to music includes elements of folk, classical, Celtic, Latin American, world, and rustic hymnody," according to Wikipedia. **Aaron's Blessing**, based on the Scriptural blessing in Numbers 6:24-26 the final song of the album entitled, "Come Down, O Love Divine", in which he invites the listener to journey into a place of reflection and worship of God.