



*First United Methodist Church*  
***Sunday, February 25, 2024***  
***Second Sunday of Lent***

*Please be aware that our services are livestreamed, and any adults and/or children participating in musical groups, children's messages, and liturgist roles will appear on camera.*

*Children will remain in worship today. Activity bags are available outside the Sanctuary. A nursery for children age 5 and under is on the lower level and includes a Bible lesson.*

**Prelude**     *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier (Blessed Jesus, We are Here)*     J.S. Bach  
Velda Graham Bell, organ

**Welcome and Announcements**     Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**\* Hymn**     *Christ for the World We Sing*     UM Hymnal #568

**Extinguishing of the First Lenten Candle**     Sara Hill

**One:** In the season of Advent, as we prepare for Christmas, we light a new candle each Sunday. In this season of Lent, as we prepare for Good Friday, we extinguish a candle each Sunday to remind us of the approaching darkness of betrayal and death.

**All:** **Jesus came into the world to be the light that guides us to God. During this time of Lenten preparation, we think of those who turned away from the light of Jesus. Jesus was approached by a rich man. He said he wanted eternal life, but he was unwilling to change his lifestyle, and he walked sadly away. We, too, are often unwilling to change even the smallest part of our lifestyle in order to follow Jesus. The darkness approaches when we sadly walk away from Jesus. We extinguish the second candle, confessing our unwillingness to do what is necessary to follow Jesus.**

**One:** Let us sing our Lenten song of prayer as we call upon God's presence.

**Prayer Song**     *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*     The Faith We Sing #2193  
*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;*  
*Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

**Children's Message**

*Children may leave for Sunday School following the Children's Message.*

**Anthem**     *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*     Stuart Townend, arr. Jay Rouse  
Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director; Rebecca Peterson, cello

**Morning Prayer**     Rev. MaryAnne Korsch  
**Prayer Song**     *Sanctuary*     The Faith We Sing #2164

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.*  
*With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

Prayers of the Congregation

**Prayer Song**     *Sanctuary*     The Faith We Sing #2164  
*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.*  
*With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

**Scripture Reading**     Sara Hill

**Portions of James 1: 19-2:26**

**One:** My dear friends, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for a person's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

**All:** As believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

**One:** Listen, my dear friends: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

**All:** What good is it, my friends, if a person claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a person is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to that one, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about the physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

**One:** But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

**All:** As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

\* Hymn *Spirit, Open My Heart*

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### Offering Our Gifts

**Anthem** *Prayer for the Innocents*

Michael Helman

Cast in Bronze; Bill Alexander, director

*"Prayer for the Innocents" was composed in memory of the 49 people killed at the Pulse Night Club in Orlando, Florida on June 12, 2016, as well as the families and loved ones of all those who have lost their lives because of hate, intolerance, and violence.*

**Sermon** *Putting Feet to Our Faith #3: How "Good" Do We Need to Be?*

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

\* Hymn *We Are Called*

The Faith We Sing #2172

### Benediction

**Postlude** *Woke Up This Morning*

African American spiritual

Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

\* please stand as you are comfortable



## ***Announcements***

*Please remember to fill out the Connect Cards each week. Keeping attendance and making sure the church has your current contact information is an important part of church records. On the back of the card, is a list of ministry opportunities, where your help can make a difference! These will change often, so check them each week and please sign up where you can.*

**Guests:** Welcome to First United Methodist Church. We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Narthex; we have a packet and small gift for first-time visitors.

*Please join us for coffee and doughnuts in Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service.*

**Faith Forum** is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. Next week, **March 3**, Nate Stewart from the Human Development Center will talk about the Crisis Response Team's work. The following week, **March 10**, Charlie Orsak will talk about green energy at FUMC.

**The St. Olaf Handbell Choir**, from St. Olaf College in Northfield, will present a concert on **Saturday, March 2** at 7pm in our Sanctuary. Admission is free but a freewill offering will be taken. This concert is part of their winter tour. The program will feature both original compositions and arrangements - everything from tangos to J.S. Bach, plus a little jazz. A highlight will be the premier performance of a work by one of the ringers; another piece combines bells, vocal quartet, French horn, and piano. The St. Olaf Handbell Choir, directed by Jill Mahr, hosted our own Strikepoint on their tour last summer. Please come and support this choir while enjoying an evening of music.

**Next Sunday** we will celebrate Holy Communion. On Communion Sundays, we ask you to remember our hungry neighbors with financial gifts and/or food donations for the CHUM Food Shelf. The Food Shelf cart will be available for donations; if you make a financial gift, please note "Food Shelf" on the check memo or envelope and make your check out to FUMC. Thank you for loving our neighbors in need.

**A new Yogadevotion session**, led by Carla Egge, will begin on **Monday, March 4** and run for 8 weeks. Meet in the Chapel at 5:30pm. Sign up at <https://yogadevotion.com/class/first-united-methodist-duluth-yogadevotion-flow-pm-3/>

**Guest WIFI Network:** FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.

**Thank you** to Alex Flinner, Tommy Kishida, and the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

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## **Ways You Can Help Your Church**



**Volunteers are needed** to help staff the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings. Talk to Pamela Brown for more information.

**The church is looking for a licensed electrician** to volunteer for wiring to migrate from fluorescent to LED lighting. Please talk with Sandy Smith in the church office.

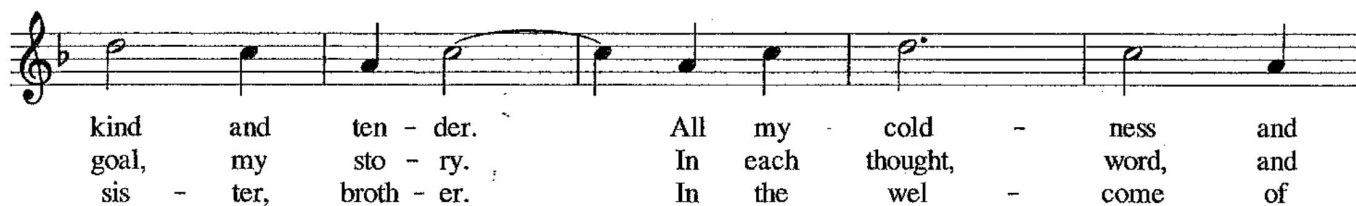
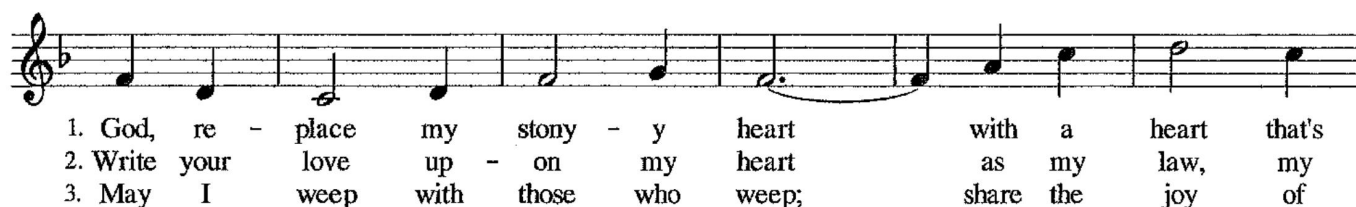
**Ways to give to support your church:** give online at [fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com) **OR** text COPPERTOP to 73256 **OR** mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811.

# Spirit, Open My Heart

## Refrain



## Fine



## to Refrain



TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1994

MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press

Music Harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Irregular

# Putting FEET To Our Faith – A Study of the Book of JAMES

## James 1:19-2:26

<sup>19</sup>My dear friends, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup>for a person's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. <sup>21</sup>Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. <sup>22</sup>Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourself. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup>Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a person who looks at their face in a mirror <sup>24</sup>and, after looking at themselves, goes away and immediately forgets what they look like. <sup>25</sup>But the one who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what they heard, but doing it— they will be blessed in what they do. <sup>26</sup>If anyone considers themselves religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on their tongue, they deceive themselves and their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that God accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

**CHAPTER 2:** As believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.

<sup>2</sup>Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. <sup>3</sup>If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup>Listen, my dear friends: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? <sup>7</sup>Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? <sup>8</sup>If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. <sup>9</sup>But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. <sup>11</sup>For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. <sup>12</sup>Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, <sup>13</sup>because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my friends, if a person claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup>Suppose a person is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup>If one of you says to that one, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup>In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

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<sup>18</sup>But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. <sup>19</sup>You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-and shudder. <sup>20</sup>You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? <sup>21</sup>Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup>You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. <sup>23</sup>And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. <sup>24</sup>You see that a person is justified by what they do and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup>In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? <sup>26</sup>As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

## SERMON NOTES

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## ADDITIONAL REFLECTION

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*What one truth from the Scripture/Sermon impresses you as something you need to apply to your life? What action will you take this week to put it into practice?*