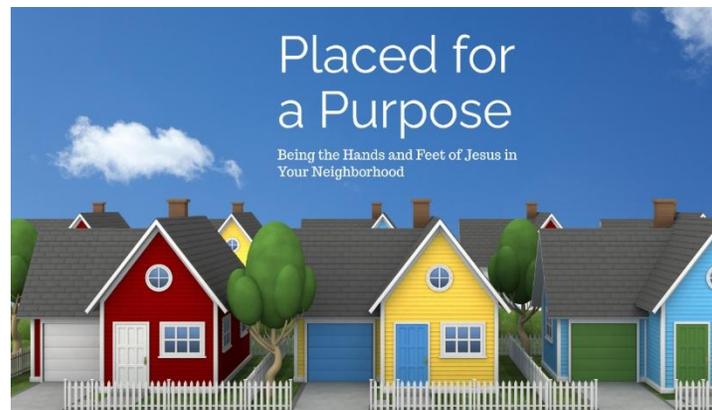


## John 11:17-45

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother's death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you." Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God's Son, the one who is coming into the world." After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary, "The teacher is here and he's calling for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. He hadn't entered the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were comforting Mary in the house saw her get up quickly and leave, they followed her. They assumed she was going to mourn at the tomb. When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died." When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked, "Where have you laid him?" They replied, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to cry. The Jews said, "See how much he loved him!" But some of them said, "He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?" Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, "Lord, the smell will be awful! He's been dead four days." Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?" So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me." Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him and let him go." Therefore, many of the Jews who came with Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.



**Sunday March 22, 2026 9:00 am – Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*\*Please stand if it is comfortable for you*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & GREETING

SONG OF BEGINNING

*Lay These Burdens Down*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus stood before a tomb and called life out of death.

**People: We come to worship the One who still brings life where hope seems lost.**

Leader: Jesus told the neighbors, "Unbind him, and let him go."

**People: We are called to be part of that unbinding in our neighborhoods.**

Leader: In our neighborhoods, there are burdens to loosen, loneliness to lift, and hope to restore.

**People:** Christ sends us to be his hands and feet among our neighbors.

Leader: With open hearts, we follow Jesus into our neighborhood.

**All:** Come, let us worship the One who calls us into life and sends us to share it.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 130

\*HYMN

*This is a Day of New Beginnings,*  
vs. 1, & 3-4

No. 383  
Red Hymnal

WITNESSING GOD'S LOVE TO OUR CHILDREN

*Children Pre-K through fifth grade may go to Children's Church. Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade go to the Nursery and 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade go to classroom E-8*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*Steal Away*

### Lenten Theme

***Place for a Purpose: Being the Hands & Feet of Jesus  
in Your Neighborhood***

SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:17-45

SERMON

*Unbinding Our Neighborhoods*

\*HYMN

*Lord, If Only You Had Been Here*  
(Sung to the tune of BEACH SPRING,  
No. 605 Red Hymnal)

Words on  
the Screens

A TIME FOR PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND OUR BLESSINGS

Invitation

Offertory

\*Doxology

No. 95 Red Hymnal

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God of life, you call us out of the places and circumstances that bind us, yet we confess that we often remain wrapped in fear, comfort, and silence. Like the crowd at Lazarus' tomb, we stand nearby—watching, wondering—when you are calling us to help unbind one another. We confess that we have overlooked our neighbors. We have passed by loneliness, ignored suffering and held tightly to the things that keep us from loving regardless. Too often we have waited for someone else to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Forgive us, God. Remove the stones we have placed in front of compassion. Loosen the grave clothes that keep us from serving joyfully. Call us once again to life as we make our silent confessions. (silent confession)

SUNG RESPONSE

*Spirit Song,*  
vs. 2

No. 347  
Red Hymnal

\*CLOSING BLESSING

\*SUNG RESPONSE

*Lord, Whose Love Through  
Humble Service, vs. 4*

No. 581  
Red Hymnal

POSTLUDE

*During the Lenten season, we will use the more traditional Doxology in worship that removes the 'Alleluias' as a way of recognizing the more solemn season of Lent. Also, our Prayer of Confession will be later in the service. As we take an inward look at ourselves during Lent, may this order of worship allow us to experience more of worship and open ourselves more fully to God before making our confessions.*

## Psalm 130

I cry out to you from the depths, Lord— my Lord, listen to my voice! Let your ears pay close attention to my request for mercy! If you kept track of sins, Lord—my Lord, who would stand a chance? But forgiveness is with you— that's why you are honored. I hope, Lord. My whole being hopes, and I wait for God's promise. My whole being waits for my Lord—more than the night watch waits for morning; yes, more than the night watch waits for morning! Israel, wait for the Lord! Because faithful love is with the Lord; because great redemption is with our God! God is the one who will redeem Israel from all its sin.

### Participating in Worship:

Rev. Jenny Arneson, Pastor

Jennie Taylor, Reader

Kevin Rice Meyers, Jennie Taylor, Amanda Hinthorn, Gospel Readers

Sweet Assurance Choir, Music; Linda Barrett, Director;

Pam Girard, Pianist

Sue Lundeen, Organist

## INVITATIONS TO ACTION

### FLOWERS FOR EASTER WORSHIP

If you are interested in sponsoring a spring flower to help decorate our Sanctuary for Easter Sunday, the cost is \$20.00. Please provide your name, the name of the person(s) you would like to memorialize or honor, and your payment no later than Tuesday, March 31. This will give our office staff sufficient time to create a list of donated flowers to be printed in our Easter Sunday bulletin. Payment may be mailed to the church or dropped in the offering plate with a note that says Attention Chris. You may email the information to Chris Hale at: [office@sunprairieumc.org](mailto:office@sunprairieumc.org)

### Easter Egg Hunt Donations

We are hoping to stuff 10,000 eggs for our community

Easter egg hunt this year. Please consider making a donation of candy or small trinkets that we can use. A collection area for donations is set up in Fellowship Hall.

### Last Dinners with Daniel this Wednesday

This week we will gather for our last time during Lent.

DINNER WILL NOT BE PROVIDED. WE ARE ASKING EVERYONE TO BRING A SHARABLE MOVIE SNACK. We

will be watching the Mister Rogers Documentary. If you have questions please contact Daniel Taylor at: [familymin@sunprairieumc.org](mailto:familymin@sunprairieumc.org)

### Easter Egg Hunt Volunteers

We will need help with set-up, hiding eggs, supervising egg hunt areas, and clean up after our Community Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th. Please reach out to Director of Family Ministry Daniel Taylor if you are interested in volunteering.

### Palm Sunday Cantata

Join us for worship next Sunday, March 29th as our Chancel Choir shares a Palm Sunday Cantata with us. Children will also be able to participate in the Palm Sunday parade.

### Lent Collection

We are collecting New Socks and Gloves to donate at various places, missions and non-profits in our community. All sizes and colors are needed as it will be for all our neighbors. There is a display in the Narthex for your donations through Easter on April 5th! Our church is so very generous in our community and this will give us yet another way to help!