

Fourth Sunday in Lent

* Indicates that worshippers are to stand if able.
Congregational responses are in bold print.

Worship Leader: Sherry Allen

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

Prelude "The Road Home" John Kwon
Greetings Rev. Sang Hun Han
Announcements Sherry Allen

*Opening Hymn "Maker, in Whom We Live" UMH #88

1. *Maker, in whom we live, in whom we are and move, the glory, power, and praise receive for thy creating love. Let all the angel throng give thanks to God on high, while earth repeats the joyful song and echoes to the sky.*
2. *Incarnate Deity, let all the ransomed race render in thanks their lives to thee for thy redeeming grace. The grace to sinners showed ye heavenly choirs proclaim, and cry, "Salvation to our God, salvation to the Lamb!"*
3. *Spirit of Holiness, let all thy saints adore thy sacred energy, and bless thine heart renewing power. Not angel tongues can tell thy love's ecstatic height, the glorious joy unspeakable, the beatific sight.*

*Call to Worship

Come, all who have wandered and long to come home.

We come seeking the grace and mercy of God.

Like the loving father, God waits with open arms.

God welcomes us with compassion and forgiveness.

When we were lost, God searched for us.

When we return, God rejoices.

Let us worship the God whose love never gives up on us.

With grateful hearts, we come to worship the Lord!

Passing Peace of Christ TFWS #2108

"O How He Loves You and Me"

*O how he loves you and me! O how he loves you and me!
He gave his life. What more could he give? O how he loves you;
O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!*

Children's Message Jane Heidemann

Children's Church Joni Javier

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Screen)

Contemplation Hymn "We Walk By Faith" TFWS #2196

1. *We walk by faith, and not by sight: No gracious words we hear of him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.*
2. *We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod; yet in his promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"*
3. *Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound; to call on you when you are near. and seek where you are found*

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

*Scripture Reading Luke 15:11-32 (NIV) Sherry Allen

The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate

with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him! ³¹ "My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

This is the Word of Life for all the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Offering Our Gifts to God's Service

Offertory Anthem "Seek Ye First" Bethany Children's Choir

*Doxology UMH #95

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, help us remember that all belongs to you. Take these offerings and use them for your glory. Take our lives, and use us, always and everywhere, for your glory. In Christ's name. Amen.

You may give your offering at www.bfvumc.org/online-giving, scan the QR code to the right, or mail it to:

**Bethany of Fox Valley UMC
2200 Ridge Ave. Aurora, IL. 60504**



Message: "Coming Home" Rev. Sang Hun Han

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn "Grace Alone" TFWS #2162

1. *Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith, every difference we will make is only by his grace. Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine, every blessing left behind is only by his grace.*

** **Refrain:** *Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide. Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go forth in grace alone.*

2. *Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach, everywhere we share his peace is only by his grace. Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away, every sorrow turned to praise is only by his grace. ***

*Benediction Rev. Sang Hun Han

*Postlude "Awake, Calls the Voice to Us" John Kwon
(J.S. Bach)

*We are glad that you joined us this morning in worship.
We hope that you find strength, renewal, and a sense of peace
going through the coming week.*

Announcements

- 1. ALTAR FLOWERS-** The beautiful flowers that adorn our altar were provided by Mary Wolf, in celebration of her sister Sue's 78th birthday.
- 2. DOLLAR DINNERS** -Our fourth Lenten Potluck Dollar Dinner is this Wednesday, **March 18th at 6:00 pm**. The main dish and beverages will be provided. This week's theme- fried chicken. Bring a side dish or a dessert to share, an offering of one dollar per person, and your own table service. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how much food to prepare.
- 3. EASTER EGG HUNT** Children attending Easter Sunday Worship Service will enjoy an extra treat of an Easter Egg Hunt. To support this experience, we are requesting individually wrapped candy or small toys/stickers to fit in eggs. Place your donations in the bin in the narthex **by March 22nd**. Please contact Joni Javier with questions.
- 4. EASTER FLOWERS-** Don't forget- orders for Easter flowers are due today!
- 5. DORCAS CIRCLE-** The next Dorcas Circle meeting will be on Wed., **March 18th** at 1:00 pm. Join us for some light refreshments, grace, and fellowship!
- 6. GEORGETOWN ELEMENTARY-** The Missions team is collecting small prizes to support Georgetown's Golden Feather award program, where children are awarded tickets for displaying attributes of integrity, learning, responsibility, and respect. See the display in the breezeway and place donations in the bin.
- 7. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL-** VBS returns this summer on **June 15-19**, from 9am to 12:30pm, for youth ages 6 through 12 years old. Our theme will be **Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God**. There will be great opportunities to volunteer and join in the fun. More details soon to follow. Please contact Bonni Pear pearbonni@gmail.com with any questions.
- 8. YOUTH GROUP PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT-** Our next Bethany Youth event will be Friday, **March 20th** from 5:30 - 8:30 at the church. We will be gathering for pizza, movies and fellowship. For questions, please contact Melanie Bomersback, mbomersback2017@gmail.com.
- 9. FELLOWSHIP TREATS & COFFEE-** More volunteers are needed to bring in treats and prepare coffee for everyone to enjoy after worship service. Pair up with a friend to make it even easier. Don't worry if you have not done it before- there's always someone to lend a hand! Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.
- 10. HOLY WEEK SERVICES-** Please join us for our Holy Week services as we journey towards the joy of Easter. All are welcome!
Palm Sunday- March 29, 9am
Maundy Thursday- April 2, 7pm (in person only)
Good Friday- April 3, 7pm (combined service with Hope UCC, in person only)
Easter Sunday- April 5, 9am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Small Group: Loyal Leaders class (10:15am)
 Children's Church (9:20 am)

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Director John Kwon / yoahn4piano@gmail.com
Handbell Choir Sherry Allen / sherryamail@gmail.com
Children's Music Director Joni Javier / 708-224-9004

EDUCATION

Chair Bonni Pear / pearbonni@gmail.com
Children's Sunday School Superintendent Joni Javier / 708-224-9004

YOUTH MINISTRY

Melanie Bomersback / mbomersback2017@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS

Live Worship Technician
 Dorothea Rynearson / dcrynearson@gmail.com
Web Master Gwen Daniels / gwendelyndaniels@gmail.com

MINISTERS: ALL MEMBERS

Rev. Sang Hun Han, Pastor
 Office: 630.851.8010 ext. 2 Email: crosshsh55@bfvumc.org
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 Office: 630.851.8010 ext. 1 Email: pastormarvin@bfvumc.org
Christine Pommier, Director of Administrative Ministries
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SAINTS IN ACTION

Worship Leader: Sherry Allen
Ushers: Don Stern & Jon Jeambey
PowerPoint Preparer: Jacquee Lawrence & Christine Pommier
Greeters: Laura Garvey & Fatmata Jalloh
Children's Message: Jane Heidemann
Children's Church: Joni Javier
In-Person Slide Operator: Ken & Jacquee Lawrence
Online Worship Service: Dorothea Rynearson

	2/15	2/22	3/1	3/8
IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE	47	38	46	42
ON-LINE ATTENDANCE	4	6	7	4
WEEKLY OFFERING	\$1,135	\$7,813	\$7,463	\$4,762
2026 APPORTIONMENT ALLOCATION: \$26,305		PAID THROUGH FEB: \$0		

Why is Lent's liturgical color purple, the color of royalty? The purple that is used for Lent and Advent is not royal purple, but penitential purple. It is a deep bluish purple, anciently made from berries and grapes. Lent is a season that emphasizes penitence for our sinfulness. It expects self-examination and self-discipline in preparation for the benefits of the death and resurrection of Jesus that saves us from damnation because of that sinfulness. As an emblem and reminder of that, we use purple.

March 15, 2026



BETHANY OF FOX VALLEY
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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