

# Faith United Methodist Church

February 21, 2021

I Am



## Centering

*<sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you. The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you": This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.*

*Exodus 3:14-15*

## Welcome

### Opening Prayer

Holy God, be present with us as we come to know you more deeply in our lives. Help us to see your work in the world in ancient days and this day. Draw our hearts and minds closer to you so that we will be committed to doing your work in your world. Through Jesus Christ, who showed us the way, we pray, **Amen.**

## Music

### Prayer of Illumination

O Lord open our hearts and lives to your word so that we may be transformed into faithful disciples. Amen.

**Amen.**

### Scripture Reading      John 14:3-6

<sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.' <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Word of God, for the People of God. Thanks Be to God. **Amen.**

## Special Music

*O God Our Help In Ages Past  
(please reflect on these words silently)*

*O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.*

Invitation to a Holy Lent

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:  
the early Christians observed with great devotion  
the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection,  
and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should  
be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also  
a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves  
from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and  
restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded  
of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we  
all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-  
examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;  
and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Music

Joys & Concerns

Prayer of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. You are the Way, the Truth and the Life, as  
your children, draw us all closer to you in our daily life and work.

You are the bread and the wine as your body in the world help us work for  
justice, freedom, and peace in all that we do.

You are the light of the world, shine through us as we love and care for the  
victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

You are the Good Shepherd, guide & protect all who are in danger, sorrow, or  
any kind of trouble; comfort the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

You are the Door, so help your Church, all who proclaim the Gospel, our Bishop  
Scott, our Superintendent Romonica, pastors, deacons, lay leaders, for all who serve  
you to welcome your people.

You are the Resurrection and the Life, so grant eternal life to those who have  
died and hope for all who grieve.

In silence we name our own needs and the needs of others...

For your mercy is great so we gather all these prayers that have been spoken and those written on our hearts to you through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Offering & Prayer for the Gifts of the Community

O God, our hope, transform our gifts and the acts of giving into ministries of love and compassion to all the persons this church serves in your name. **Amen.**

Music

Benediction

Go forth from this time and place, knowing I Am has called you to walk the way with Christ the truth who gives us life eternal. May our experience be shared with those we meet. May the blessing of God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Margaret Arceneaux  
 Paul Arceneaux, Jr.  
 Sidney Arceneaux  
 Kim Craigen Ard  
 Lucian Adams  
 Dolores Anderson  
*Family of Johnny Battaglio*  
 Brenda Bermaster  
 Lloyd Betar  
 Mary Bevil  
 Roland Blanchard  
 Bonnie Blankenship  
 Donna Suppa Bolton  
 Jo Bordeaux  
 Pat Borel  
 Glenda Brooks  
 Jean Brooks  
 Kent Broussard  
 Ann Campbell  
 Norma Campbell  
 Robert & Roxie Castilaw  
 Jared Castolenia  
 Matthew Cerda  
 Tana Champeau  
 Rebecca Chance  
 Billie Cherry  
 Kim Wilber Conn  
 Derick Cooper  
 Kyle & Beth Craigen  
 Dakota Crutchfield  
 Jimmy & Emily Davis  
 Bobbye Dean  
 Mary Delafosse  
 Tammy Dufour

**Prayer List**  
 Julie Duplichan  
 Keven Dupre  
 Marli Dupuy  
 Joe Floyd  
 Sheila Frederick  
 Lorene Green  
 Rachel Grimmett  
 Robert Hargraves  
 Connie Hebert  
 MaryJo Hebert  
 Susie Hesselteine  
 Edna & Raymond Jones  
 Selwyn Jones  
 Alice Kethley  
 Kristi Key  
 Ray & Tammy Lake  
 Bud Landry  
 Clyde Landry  
 Fred Ledesma  
 Alice & Louis Loftin  
 Orianna Marchand  
 Matt Markos  
 Barbara Martin  
 Gary & Vicky Minaldi  
 Linda Meyers  
 Ron & Michelle Mueller  
 Joyce Murphy  
 Eric Neal  
 Leslie Brown Newton  
 Arnold Northcut  
 Kelly Simmons Owens  
 Jim Padgett  
 John & Candance Perkins  
 Melva Phillips

Harlan Phipps  
 Mercedes Pierson  
 Justin Plake  
 John Pool  
 Kenny Puckett  
 Charles Quinn  
 Beverly Reese  
 Buddy Renkema  
 Nikki Castilaw Rice  
 Edward Rivet  
 Randy & Darlene Rivett  
 Floyd Roche  
 Ezekiel Romero  
 Joann Savelle  
 Shawna Shaw  
 Loretta Shearer  
 Brooke Simon  
 Harriet Simpson  
*Family of Smitty Smith*  
 James Sowell  
 Kim Streed  
 Bob Taylor  
 Sadina Hammock Ward  
 Mary Alice Weitzel  
 Herschel Williams  
 Mary Rose Williams  
 Gail Wright  
 Greta Zeralsky



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We are called to be:

**Transformed** by God's love, Christ's sacrifice and the Spirit's work in our lives.

**Engaged** with all of God's children from the small to the tall, the near and the far.

**Celebrate**, worship & praise God as we care for each other.

**Share** the Good News of God's love in our thoughts, words and deeds.

Attributes