

## The Church Responds to God

We hear Christ's words this day as we strive to be stewards of God's great mercy. Let us give generously as we too remember that our very selves belong to God.

**\*You can send offerings through mail or online giving at Tithely**  
- more information is provided on [www.monroeumc.com](http://www.monroeumc.com).

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

**Righteous God, we mark these early days in the Lenten journey with reminders of your covenant with your people. In your judgement, you sent upon creation the great flood – yet you saved a faithful remnant. You followed with a covenant not to use the flood again. As we prepare to offer our gifts to you, we are reminded that we have been spared from judgment by the One, your son, our Savior, who took on our guilt and bore our judgement. May gratitude for his sacrifice move us to offer not only money, but our whole being. In Christ, we pray. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

\*HYMN We'll Understand It Better By and By #525 (1 & 2)  
Linda Moser

\*DEPART WITH BLESSING

The first step on the journey, that of readiness, is one of the hardest. We keep thinking that we have forgotten something. God has called you by name, to this journey. You will have all that you need.

Go in peace, and know that God is going with you.

POSTLUDE

Sarah Johanson

## Monroe United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Don Kim, pastor 2227 Fourth St Monroe, WI 53566  
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### Mission Statement

**"Transformed Lives Transform Communities"**  
**"Bring Them In, Grow Them Up, Send Them Out"**

February 21, 2021

9:30 Worship

## First Sunday in Lent

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

1. If you're at home with your spouse or family **begin by gathering** around the table. If it's just you, maybe you could phone or FaceTime a friend to "join" you for worship.
2. Once you're in place **light a candle** to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit. This is a good way to signal that you are entering into sacred time, and the place where you were chatting and laughing just a moment ago has become a sacred place.
3. **Bring your own Bible** (and a Hymnal).
4. **Turn on your computer, smartphone, or tablet PC**
5. **Login [www.monroeumc.com](http://www.monroeumc.com) and scroll down**  
**Or Facebook Live Stream 9:30 am**  
**Login - Facebook.com/Monroe United Methodist Church**

### CENTERING WORDS

"There are some journeys for which we long.  
But the journey to the cross looks as though it will be difficult.  
The way of discipleship and faith is difficult."

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

Pastor

PRELUDE

Sarah Johanson

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Come all who are lost and in pain. God calls to you.  
Come all who have lost hope, who feel that there is nothing worth living for.  
Come, do not despair. God is calling your name.  
Come! Let's worship God, who makes and keeps covenant.

## OPENING CHORUS

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days #269 (1&4)  
Linda Moser

## OPENING PRAYER

Robyn Essler

**Loving and Creating God, the season of Lent is here again and, as with so many times before, we find that we are not really ready for this journey of discipleship. So many things claim our lives and prevent us from being ready to take the steps in faith. As we look at our barrier of readiness, help us to remember that Christ is with us, every step of the way. We are not alone. Christ will help lift our hearts and spirits and direct our paths. Enable us, loving Savior, to take this journey of faith to new life with you. AMEN.**

## TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Do not be afraid. The barrier of fear which prevents you from being ready is being destroyed by the love and presence of God. Come on the journey. As far as east is from west, so has God removed our sins. Believe the gospel: in Christ you are forgiven. AMEN.

RESPONSIVE HYMN O Jesus, I Have Promised #396 (Verse 1)  
Linda Moser

# The Church Hears God's Word

## Scripture – Genesis 9:8-17

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again

shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12 God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

L: This is the word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Dr. Kim