

**Prelude ~** “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

### **Welcome & Announcements**

Worship Leader: Loren Swenson

*(• Please stand as you are able)*

**Christ’s Light Enters** “Sanctuary”

#### **• Call to Worship**

Sing praises to God, O you saints, and give thanks to God’s holy name!

**We are in awe, O God, for you have restored us to life!**

We may cry though the night, but your joy comes with the morning.

**You hear us, O God, and you are gracious in our distress.**

You turn our mourning into dancing!

**Our souls cannot be silent! O God, our Savior, we give thanks to you forever!** (paraphrases portions of Psalm 30)

**• Song of Praise** “Burning in My Soul”

#### **Opening Prayer**

**Loving God, we confess that we have not always lived for you. You have invited us into new life, yet we have closed our eyes and ears and hearts against that invitation. You have shown us the way to love, yet we have chosen too often the path of uncaring. You have called us to the ministry of reconciliation, yet often we find ourselves tempted to turn away from others. You have challenged us to generosity, but many times we would rather keep to ourselves. Enter our lives once again, God. Release us from the bonds of self-centeredness.**

**Create in us a renewed openness to your love, so that we may share your love with others. Thank you for your forgiving grace. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

**New Testament Reading** Galatians 2:20  
**Liturgist:** Cindy Kocher

**Children’s Moment** Puppets  
[After Children’s Moment, children may go to the nursery or return to their parents.]

**New Testament Reading** Philippians 1:3-11

**Sermon** “A Life Opening to Jesus”  
Part 3 of Series, “A Disciple is...”  
**Pastor Melanie Adams**

**Response Song** #2163  
“He Who Began a Good Work in You”

#### **Time of Prayer**

*(Where have you seen God’s presence? What joys and concerns are in your hearts and minds?)*  
Lord’s Prayer #895

**Offertory** “How Great is Our God”  
**\* The Doxology ~** “Give Thanks”

#### **• Offertory Prayer [Unison]**

**As we follow you, Lord Jesus, may we find that our hearts are generous and our spirits compassionate. With gratefulness, we place our offerings before you, confident that they will help in the making, nurturing, and sending out of your faithful followers. Amen.**

**• Closing Song** “The Summons” #2130 vs. 1-2,5  
This song is our theme song for this sermon series.

#### **• Our Purpose**

What is our purpose?

**We come to experience Christ’s love, and work together to live it out!**

#### **• Benediction**

**• Benediction Response** “Forever Reign”

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### **PRAYERS**

Please see the Prayer Board outside the office for ongoing prayer requests.

Pray for our congregation: For the ministry of making, nurturing, and sending out of disciples; because we believe that God’s Love is the answer for the most difficult questions of our world today. Jesus changes lives!

### **Thoughts to Ponder**

If we want to open our heart more to Jesus, it is important to include practices in our lives that will help set the stage for this to occur. Some ideas include: Small group experiences which challenge and support you spiritually, serving others, digging into the scriptures (which includes looking at the world in which the scriptures were written in order to gain perspective), spiritual retreats, prayer (alone and with a group of people). Talk to Pastor Melanie if you want to know more about how to include any of these areas in your life.

**Events this week in church:**

**Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:30 am Sunday school
- 10:30 am Worship Service
- 11:30 am Missions Team, room 203

**Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**

- 5:45 pm Table Talk
- 6:30 pm Confirmation Class

**Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:30 am Sunday school
- 10:30 am Worship Service
- 11:30 am All Church Luncheon  
(Youth Missions Trip Fundraiser)  
Table Service Provided



**March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Wear Blue Sunday

**March 21<sup>st</sup>**

Commodities

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Oodles of Noodles Day

**March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Match Madness



**Sermon Series "A Disciple is..."**

*This series will help you build an authentic, life-transforming, awesome relationship with Christ! No matter where you are in your journey of faith, this series will help you go further and dig deeper*

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**Interested in Membership and/or Baptism?**

Contact the church office to set up an appointment to visit with Pastor Melanie.

**Welcome to our guests!** We are glad you are here. We hope you were blessed by your experience at First United Methodist Church this morning and will tell a friend!



**February 25, 2018**

**First United Methodist Church**

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Church (785) 243-4560

Office Hours:

Monday: 8:00-3:30

Tuesday: 9:30-3:30

Wednesday: 8-3:30

Thursday: 8-3

Friday: 8-12

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**Concordia First United Methodist Church**

**Rev. Melanie Adams, Pastor**