

Sunday, November 21, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A few reminders of the goings on in our church and community... If you'd like to receive a weekly email letting you know what's coming up at LaVale United simply call, email, or reach us through private message on Facebook, and we will put you on the One Call Now list.
- Sunday School for all ages, Pre-K-High School and beyond! Join us for breakfast at 9:30 a.m. [Register your kids here](#). Download the [Parent Cue](#) app for more involvement. Join the youth on Sunday evening @ 6:30.
- Food pantry needs volunteers. If you'd like to help, call the church office.
- Dig out your coats from last year, because the United Methodist Women want to redistribute them. Donate for people in need in our area.
- If you would like a "Just Be Kind" lawn sign (\$10), or a daily devotional book (free), please call the church office and request it.

Questions? Call the church office (301) 722-6800.

Welcome to worship.

We'd like to thank all who are joining us in person, in the parking lot, on YouTube, Facebook, and on WCBC. We see you and you are welcomed here. Feel free to comment, react, like, and share this video if you feel led.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Everything speaks.

Creation speaks. Sunlight, bursting forth over endless rolling hills and through windows that pay the gift forward by presenting a kaleidoscope of colors, speaks of a brilliant and intense love.

Silence speaks, and in moments of silent prayer, we feel a familiar and tender embrace. We can hear God in the silence.

Music, the language of the atmosphere, speaks to and for the parts of us that words cannot.

And people speak. Our people, who come in shades that together create a handsome symphony of colors, speak.

God speaks through our communities.

The Spirit of the Lord speaks through us.

Inspire our utterances, God,
and help us to receive again the wondrous gift that you have placed before us:
the opportunity to listen.

Amen.

PRELUDE/LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty, Eternal and Holy God, who is, who was, and who is to come, worthy are you to receive our praise and thanksgiving. Here in this holy place where you have promised to dwell among us, we gather to offer our praise to your holy Name. To you be glory and dominion forever.

Your revelation in Jesus Christ gives life to our bodies and souls. He has shown us the way to everlasting life and has promised to make us priests and a royal nation, but not in a place that we can see in the here-and-now. Still, we try to fit your ways into our expectations and then we grumble when you do not conform. Where we have doubted your wisdom and your truth, forgive us, good Lord.

Jesus was born to come into the world and bear witness to the truth. He has said that whoever is of the truth hears his voice. By the outpouring of your Holy Spirit equip us to bear witness to that same truth and so help others in hearing your voice.

On this day we await your coming in power and might to reclaim your Church and establish the reign of righteousness. In that same power we ask you to take into your care those whom we have named this day; relieve their suffering, end their captivity and restore their brokenness.

O God, our Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, hear our prayers and in your mercy, answer them in Jesus' name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** Rock Of Ages (Toplady) vv. 1, 2, 4

Verse 1

Rock of Ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee
Let the water and the blood
From thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Save from wrath and make me pure

Verse 2

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone
Thou must save and thou alone

Verse 4

While I draw this fleeting breath
When mine eyes shall close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown
See thee on thy judgment throne
Rock of Ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee

CCLI Song # 40588

Augustus Montague Toplady | Thomas Hastings

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SCRIPTURE READING

John 18:33-37

18:33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

18:34 Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

18:35 Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?"

18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

18:37 Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

SERMON Jesus' Inconvenient Truth: A Life That Matters Sermon Series - Rev. Frankie Revell

PRAYER QUILTS

OFFERING/OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of majesty and power, you have dominion over all the universe, and yet you chose to rule not in power but in love. The gifts we give to you are not given from fear or in petition for your favor, but in the deepest gratitude for all your blessings that keep us and sustain us. May our whole lives reflect to the world that there is one who rules us with love and compassion, above all this world's nations and principalities. In the name of your Son, the Christ, we pray. Amen.
(John 18:33-37)

***CLOSING HYMN** I Will Call Upon The Lord

Verse

I will call upon the Lord (ECHO)
Who is worthy to be praised (ECHO)
So shall I be saved from my enemies (ECHO)
I will call upon the Lord

Chorus

The Lord liveth
And blessed be my Rock
Let the God of my salvation be exalted
(REPEAT)

CCLI Song # 11263

Michael O'Shields

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***BENEDICTION**

God of grace, love, power, and truth: You delivered your Son into this world to testify to the truth. Mobilize us. Give us the nerve to continuously take up the project loving truth telling like Christ our King. Give us the courage to eagerly respond to your call to advocate for justice and peace in our communities, so that the oppressed will be set free. It is because of the Spirit that gives each one the sustenance needed to do this hard work, we pray. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

***DISMISSAL**