

Order of Worship - March 16, 2025

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship

Come, all who are weary, all who have wandered far,
all who long for home.

*We come, knowing that God's arms are open wide,
ready to embrace us with love.*

Come, all who have struggled with grace—whether receiving
it or giving it.

*We come, longing to rest in God's mercy and to learn
the way of forgiveness.*

Come, all who rejoice in the lost being found,
in the broken being restored.

*We come to celebrate the goodness of our God,
whose grace knows no limits!*

Let us worship the One who runs to meet us,
who clothes us in love, who invites us into joy.

*With open hearts, we enter this time of worship,
ready to receive and share the extravagant grace of God!*

*Hymn - "Amazing Grace", UMH #378

Children's Message

Scripture Reading - Luke 15:11-32 (NRSVUE)

The word of God, for the people of God. *Thanks be to God!*

Hymn - "Grace Alone", TFWS #2162

Message - "Stories That Shape Us: The Prodigal Son"

The Lord's Prayer

*"The Doxology", UMH #95

*Hymn - "Softly and Tenderly", UMH #348, vs 1- 2

*Benediction

*Hymn - "Softly and Tenderly", UMH #348, vs 4

Postlude

*PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

*Pastor Jeremy will greet people in the Warren St Lobby
immediately following service.*

Altar Flowers are given in honor of our Community Meal volunteers.

NOTES:



Check In Here

SERVING TODAY - MARCH 16

Reader: Barbara Ross
Ushers: Mike and Jana Pisani
Greeter: Kathi Parker
Children's Sunday School: Julie Setlock
Nursery: Diane Parrish, Paige Madden
Fellowship Host: Denise Cosper

SERVING NEXT WEEK - MARCH 23

Reader: Doug Fitzgerald
Ushers: Rex and Cheryl Richardson
Greeter: Barbara Ross
Children's Sunday School: Julie Setlock
Nursery: Diane Parrish, Liberty Beam
Fellowship Host: Cheryl Richardson

Welcome to First Church!

Welcome to Big Rapids First United Methodist Church, an inclusive and affirming congregation (you can read our welcome statement here: bigrapidsfirst.org/welcome) - we are so happy you're here! If this is your first visit, or you're not familiar with us, check out our "First Visit" page @ bigrapidsfirst.org/firstvisit.

If you require additional assistance, please ask any of our welcome team members, and they will be happy to help!

THINK ABOUT IT THIS WEEK

This week, we reflected on the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) and the depth of God's grace. The story reminds us that no matter how far we wander, God runs to meet us with love and restoration. It also challenges us to extend that same grace to others, letting go of resentment and celebrating redemption.

Reflection Questions:

- When have you experienced God's grace in an unexpected way?
- Are there areas in your life where you struggle to accept grace?
- Who in your life might need to receive grace from you this week?
- Do you resonate more with the younger son (receiving grace) or the older son (struggling to give grace)?

A Prayer for the Week

Gracious God, thank You for loving me beyond what I deserve. Help me to fully embrace Your grace and extend it freely to others. Soften my heart where it has grown hard, and teach me to celebrate when the lost are found. May I live as a reflection of Your extravagant love. Amen.

Final Thought:

Grace is not just something we receive—it is something we are called to give. This week, look for opportunities to reflect God's love through kindness, forgiveness, and joy. Who can you welcome home today?

COMING UP NEXT SUNDAY: "THE TALENTS"

Next week, we'll dive into the Parable of the Talents and explore what it means to be entrusted with gifts from God. Jesus teaches that we are not meant to bury what we've been given but to boldly use our talents, time, and resources for His kingdom.

Are we playing it safe, or are we stepping out in faith? What does faithful stewardship look like in our everyday lives?

Join us for worship as we reflect on what it means to trust God with all They have placed in our hands! See you Sunday!

MARCH PERSONAL HYGIENE PANTRY NEEDS LIST:

- toilet paper (individually wrapped)
- paper towel (individually wrapped)
- sponges
- powdered Laundry Detergent
- cleaning powder
- band-aids
- adult Toothpaste
- shampoo
- conditioner
- bar soap

Your generosity makes a difference! To avoid any confusion in our giving systems, please make your checks out to your local campus. Thank you for your continued support!