

KNIGHTSVILLE Methodist Church

Faith - Family - Fellowship

ORDER OF WORSHIP **CONTEMPORARY SERVICE** MARCH 30, 2025 11:05 a.m.

CALL TO WORSHIP	Jesus Messiah	Praise Team & Congregation
SONG OF FAITH	Make Room	Praise Team & Congregation
GREETING & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION		PR
WORDS OF WISDOM	Deuteronomy 7:6-9	Leanna Tidd
SONG OF HOPE	Lost In Your Love	Praise Team (solo)
NEW DOXLOGY / BLESSING OF THE OFFERING		
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH / THE LORD'S PRAYER		Lisa Patrick
WORD OF GOD	John 3:14-21	Janine Ciaccia
SPIRITUAL VITAMIN	THE CROSS Love!	
	You can never wander beyond or be lost from God's love, Amen!	
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION		Praise Team (solo)
SONG OF LOVE	Your Great Name	Praise Team & Congregation
GOING FORTH		

COMMUNION STEWARDS: Jackie Sinclair; Dave Sinclair; Rick Stoltz; Dixie Stoltz;
Lisa Box; Chris Craven; Anna Speakman; Ginger Atwell

GREETING:

Pastor: Lord, today we gather to witness you.

People: You bring glory to the earth, from the deepest valley to the highest mountain.

Pastor: Lord, today we gather to listen to you.

People: You call us to go and bring good news to your people

Pastor: Lord, today we gather to praise you.

People: You invite us to your table and draw us into your presence.

Leader: Lord, today we gather to worship you.

People: Fill our hearts, minds, and souls with your Holy Spirit. Guide us with your mercy to be courageous to spread the Good News to all we meet.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION:

Pastor: Please join me in today's Prayer of Consecration.

Pastor: Jesus, have mercy upon us, as we move through this day.

People: In the times of peace these hours may bring. You in me, and I in you.

Pastor: Jesus, have mercy upon us, as we move through this day.

People: In the seasons of wilderness that make me strong. You in me, and I in you.

Pastor: Jesus, have mercy upon us, as we move through this day.

People: In the freedom of surrender before your cross. You in me, and I in you.

Pastor: Jesus, have mercy upon us, as we move through this day.

People: In the power of the resurrection, that makes me whole. You in me, and I in you.

Pastor: Praying in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

WORDS OF WISDOM - DEUTERONOMY 7:6-9

Deuteronomy, Moses' "Upper Desert Discourse," consists of a series of farewell messages by Israel's 120-year-old leader. It is addressed to the new generation destined to possess the Land of Promise - those who survived the forty years of wilderness wandering.

Like Leviticus, Deuteronomy contains a vast amount of legal detail, but its emphasis is on the layman rather than the priests. Moses reminds the new generation of the importance of obedience if they are to learn from the sad example of their parents.

Allow all these words from chapter 7 to instill in you that staying in love with God is of utmost importance in your walk towards spiritual maturity.

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸ But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

O Lord, you have given us the gift of your Word.

People: May we ever protect and keep it pure. Amen.

WORD OF GOD - JOHN 3:14-21

God doesn't speak to us with a voice to make audio needles move, but there are times when we've sensed something down deep, almost like a tuning fork has just been pinged in our souls. It's not just one of those "I know because I know" things either. I think we can triangulate on the unmistakable tugs of God's voice because we know other things about His character and nature. For instance, we know God loves us and how right forgiveness feels. We also know some truths about the world, like the love we have in our family and how we've always liked rainy days and cheeseburgers, that sort of stuff. From there, we can get a sense of how God has wired us and use a combination of our hearts and His truths to move ourselves in a certain direction.

So rather than spending time wondering why we don't hear audible voices, we should just try to listen harder with our hearts. God doesn't talk to us in an audible voice because God isn't a human being; He's God. That makes sense to us, because human beings are limited and God isn't limited at all. He can communicate to us in any way He wants to anytime He wants to.

I haven't seen a combination of tree limbs that looked like John the Baptist or a cloud formation resembling Jesus. Honestly, they just look like branches and clouds to me. But I do see the beauty in them and the beauty that's everywhere, that God made for me and you. I especially see evidence of God in other people's lives. What's beautiful about them always looks an awful lot like God to me. I wonder if the people listening for voices or looking for cloud shapes miss the whisper of God's creation, somehow thinking it's a lesser form of communication, like a text message rather than a whole book on tape. It could just be me, but in all of this and despite what feels like a handicap at times, I can almost read His lips inaudibly saying to me and you, "*I love you this much.*"

Allow these words, from the Gospel of John, to bring forth a deeper awareness of the immense amount of love God has for you.

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.