



graceplace

Unbound

August 20, 2017

9:00 am Arise! Worship

Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Nelson

320 W Seventh St, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

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Welcome to Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Visitors are encouraged to fill out the Friendship Folder along with our members.

Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments following worship.

Hearing enhancement devices and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

*All who choose may stand

FWS: Song printed in black The Faith We Sing Hymnal **UMH:** Song printed in blue United Methodist Hymnal

- * **Songs** Everlasting God
#2072 (FWS) Amen, Amen

- * **Call to Worship** Karla Ringeisen

One: In a world...
Where heroes come in all shapes and sizes!
**All: Big and brawny, small and brainy,
Mighty heroes just like us!**
One: When people cry out for help,
All: For food and friendship, for jobs and healing,
One: Heroes like you respond.
Whether our origin story includes wealth, loss, or mutant powers:
All: We're ready to change the world!
One: All are welcome here!
All: Thanks be to God!

- * **Sung Response #657 (UMH)** This Is the Day

- * **Greeting Your Neighbor**

Invitation to Mission

Time with Children

Welcoming New Members

Time of Prayer

Creating God, You made us weird and wonderful. Remake us everyday in the shape of love. Transform our impatience, self-centeredness, and fear. Unleash the hero inside us: welcoming strangers, feeding the hungry, and fighting injustice here and everywhere. We offer you our hopes and worries in silent prayer.

Moment of Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering

Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen

Brianna Dee Kingsley

* Song #494 (UMH)

Kum Ba Yah

Scripture

John 11:32-40

Common English Bible

When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked, "Where have you laid him?"

They replied, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus began to cry. The Jews said, "See how much he loved him!" But some of them said, "He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, "Lord, the smell will be awful! He's been dead four days."

Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?" So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me." Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Message

Unbound

Caleb Williams

* Song

God Loves You (And There's Nothing You Can Do)

Blessing

Dear Friends,

On Monday, for a few hours, our corner of the Earth will be in shadow as the moon passes between us and the sun. Unlike our prehistoric forebears, we do not need to worry that we have angered the gods or that the sun may never come back. This once-in-a-generation event is still a good moment to pause and remember a few lessons of the eclipse:

1. **You are not the center of the universe** (and neither am I). Though our jobs, relationships, and politics are very important to us, in the grand scheme of things, we are motes of starstuff on a pebble in an ocean of oceans. Our lives still matter, but sometimes a reminder of scale can put things in perspective.
2. **Even when the world seems to go dark, if you wait long enough, the sun will reappear.** In the midst of grief, pain, or numbness, our hearts can forget that joy will return. The pain may not ever go away, but the heart may learn to hold both joy and pain simultaneously.
3. **Dark times are better with good company.**
4. **Stop, notice, and wonder** at the mind-blowing awesomeness of the universe!
5. **When things are dark, be the light.** When nothing is good and everything is awful, you can be the spark of love that illuminates the world. When you feel like you have nothing, give it away.

For all those reasons, and especially the last one, we're throwing a party on Monday! From 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on our front lawn, we'll be celebrating, eating great food, and watching the eclipse with our certified eclipse glasses. We've been making connections, collecting food, and raising money to give over 1000 bags of groceries to Gleaners Community Food Bank, and to our very own Sack Lunch program. We're making a real difference, and on this special day we're making the world a little brighter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Moreland', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

P.S. There's still time to give food and money (business sponsorships available at \$250 level). Contact the office or MMoreland@rofum.org.