

# Memorial First India United Methodist Church

MARCH 12, 2023 10:30 A.M. THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Ministers: *The Whole Congregation*      *Together We Can Make a Difference*

**\*\*Indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able. At those places marked “unison” or printed in bold you are invited to join in reading aloud with the entire congregation**

## CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE:

*Peter Kotiah*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

*Rev. Saroj Sangha*

CHORAL INTROIT: (Telugu)

*Lokamulo...Nee ..Prati Roopam Maanavali, Rudhi Papaharam,  
Paraloka Nivasa... Karuna Kara... Kavara...Naravathara Deva Kumara, A...A...men.*

**\*\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Sarah Boddu**

Leader: O God, my God, we seek you.

**People: Our souls thirst for you.**

Leader: Our spirits long for you,

**People: For we are parched and weary in these desert times,  
these wilderness places.**

Leader: But your love, O God, is better even than life.

**People: Our words will praise you, our actions bless you**

Leader: Let us seek the Lord where God may be found.

**People: Call upon the Holy One, who is near.**

Leader: We will bless you as long as we live.

**ALL: We will lift up our hands and call on your name. Amen.**

**\*\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

***“The Church’s One Foundation ”***

***UMH #545***

## SERVICE OF CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Mercy, we long to come when you call, yet often we do not. When we are most alone, we fail to turn to you. When we are most afraid, we do not always think we can turn to you. When we are lost, hurting, and in pain, we fail to realize how much we suffer. We refuse to ask for help. We lash out at others. We numb our hearts. We hide. Forgive us. But you, O God, are faithful. You see us and know us and love us as we are. In times of trial, you show us the way through. Receive us once more, and have mercy on us. As we seek your presence, help us place our trust in the grace of your heart, and help us to begin again. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Minister: Anything we have done, God knows already. Anything we have hidden God has already seen. God's love for us and grace to us are higher than we have imagined, deeper than we have guessed. Before we have asked, God's mercies are already given. For God does not waste our struggles, but uses them to grow joy.

People: **Glory to God. Amen.**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

*Pastor*

## PRAYER RESPONSE

## PASTORAL PRAYER

*Children may go to their Sunday School Classes*

## SERVICE OF PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM **“Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes”** *English Chancel Choir*

OLD TESTAMENT READING : **Exodus 14:10-15** **Aparanjini Paul**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5: 6-11** **Bina Punith**

L: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE: **“Stand Firm in the Lord”** **Rev. Saroj Sangha**

## SERVICE OF COMMITMENT

MUSICAL SELECTION **Telugu Chancel Choir**

**\*The Doxology #95 UMH “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

**DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**

## SENDING FORTH

**\*\*HYMN** **“Where He Leads Me”** **UMH #338**

**\*\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Minister: Brothers and sisters, stand firm in Christ.

People: **Trust God's promises in all things and take shelter in the Spirit's loving arms in times of trouble.**

Minister: Go in peace, to love and serve the world.

ALL: **Amen.**

**\*\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE    “Let there be Peace on Earth”**

*Let there be Peace on earth and let it begin with me;  
Let there be Peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.*

*With God our creator, children all are we.*

*Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now:*

*With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;*

*To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally*

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

**POSTLUDE**

*Peter Kotiah*

***Welcome Visitors, online members and friends. We are glad you chose to worship with us today. We trust you will experience the presence of God in our worship. May God’s blessings be with you always!***

**Memorial First India United Methodist Church  
9226 Colesville Road - Silver Spring, MD 20910**

**Pastor, Rev. Saroj Sangha at 301-879-0374 or Church at 301-585-8015**

**Office hours 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday thru Friday, [www.mfiumc.org](http://www.mfiumc.org)**

***Our Sunday attendance for March 5, 2023***

Attendance: Adults 125 Youth 12 Children 18 = 145 Tithes and Offering = \$11,857.00

***Worship Leaders***

**Liturgist:** Sarah Boddu;

**Readers: Old Testament,** Aparanjini Paul; **Epistle Reading,** Bina Punith;

**Acolyte:** Emmanuel Sahas Rana;

**Greeters:** Ebenezer Samuel; Monica Samuel;

**Ushers:** Simple Kalluri; Twinkle Kalluri

## Lenten and Easter Services

The following is the program listing for Lenten and Easter Services: Those who wish to join via Zoom are welcome to join. However, you will not be able to take part in the live discussions.

### LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES

We will meet in the Parlor for the Lenten Bible Study on every Friday at 7:30 pm from March 3<sup>rd</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup> to study the book called, **Simon Peter**, (Flawed but faithful disciple), by Adam Hamilton, which will be followed by Potluck dinner. The Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

### Palm Sunday, April 02:

10:30 a.m. - Palm Sunday procession starts at 9:45 a.m. followed by the Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. **Easter Cantata** will be performed by the Choir during the Service.

### Maundy Thursday, April 06:

7:30 p.m. - Worship Service followed by Holy Communion, commemorating the Supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion.

### Good Friday, April 07:

12:00 - 3:00 p.m. - A service of Meditation on Seven Words of Christ from the cross.

### Easter Sunday, April 09:

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship Service. We gather to Worship and proclaim:  
**Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again!**

The congregation is requested to bring **fresh flowers** (bought or from your garden) **to decorate the Cross, signifying New Life in Christ**, during the Easter Worship Service.

Following the Service, we gather downstairs in the **Ernst Fellowship Hall** for a Potluck breakfast.

Children will have their **Easter Egg Hunt**.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

**Grace and Peace,**

**Rev. Saroj Sangha**  
**Pastor, MFIUMC**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Altar flowers are presented to the Honor and Glory of God,  
*In celebration of the Birthday of Lily Cornelius on March 7<sup>th</sup>.***

Every Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study is held via Zoom.  
Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study is in the Church Parlor.

### **TODAY**

**United Methodist Women will meet following the Worship Service.**

### **PRAYER SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

**Please take time to pray for the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.**

**Mrs. Glory Tadikonda** (our church secretary),  
**Mrs. Stella Samuel, Mr. Scott Whittemore** (Liz Roth's cousin), **Dr. T. Vishwas Rao Jude,**  
**Mr. Paul Jerome Kola, Mrs. Pauline Robinson, Mrs. Victoria Jaipal,**  
**Mr. Sherlock Ratanjee, Mr. Raphael Neville Victor, Mr. Richard McMullen,**  
**Mrs. Esther Cornelius and Mrs. Asuntha Francis** (Mrs. Rachel Samuel's sister).

**CHILDREN RECEIVING CARE AT HOME: Elysia Durgam and Abigail Channuri.**

### **EASTER CANTATA**

The MFIUMC Choir will be presenting an Easter Cantata called "THE LAMB". It is composed by Jay Rouse and Rose Aspinall, and will be performed on April 2, 2023, during the Palm Sunday Worship Service, starting at 10:30 AM.  
Choir practices during March will be held both on Saturdays and Sundays, beginning at 1:30 PM on those days.

## SUNDAY'S PALMS ARE WEDNESDAY'S ASHES

Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes  
As another Lent begins;  
Thus we kneel before our Maker;  
In contrition for our sins.  
We have marred baptismal pledges,  
In rebellion gone astray;  
Now returning, seek forgiveness;  
Grant us pardon, God this day!

Bind us together, Lord  
Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken  
Bind us together, Lord  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

We have failed to love our neighbors,  
Their offences to forgive,  
Have not listened to their troubles,  
Nor have cared just how they live,  
We are jealous, proud, impatient,  
Loving over much our things  
May the yielding of our failings,  
Be our Lenten offerings

Bind us together, Lord  
Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken  
Bind us together, Lord  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

We are hasty to judge others,  
Blind to proof of human need;  
And our lack of understanding;  
Demonstrates our inner greed;  
We have wasted earth's resources, Want and suffering we've ignored;  
Come and cleanse us, then restore us; Make new hearts within us Lord.

Bind us together, Lord  
Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken  
Bind us together, Lord  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

<b>ORDER FORM 2023 EASTER LILY</b>
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Memorial First India United Methodist Church

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND GIVE CAREFUL ATTENTION TO:

Number of Plants Ordered:	Amount Paid: \$
[Cost is \$12 per plant]	Cash: Check*

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(so we can contact you if there are questions)

**Name of the Person, Persons or Family who will be giving the plant(s):**


**Name of the deceased Person or Persons who the plants are given ‘In Memory of’**


**Name of the living Person/Persons/Family who the plants are given “In Honor of”**


*\*Please make checks payable to “Memorial First India UMC” or MFIUMC on checks: “Lilies”.  
Easter is Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, so please return the completed form with payment, via the collection  
plate, to the Church office, or to Liz Roth NO LATER THAN Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Liz can be  
reached at 301-924-2211 or at [mousetrapliz@earthlink.net](mailto:mousetrapliz@earthlink.net)*