Art by Sue Carroll

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Culmore United Methodist Church

Welcome and Good Morning!

Happy Birthday, Jim!

Once again it's your birthday. Once again the time is here.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Happy time is your birthday, happy time this year.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
For you have Jesus Christ everyday of your life.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
The Lord bless and keep you.
Happy birthday to you. And to Jesus with you.
God bless you and keep you. Happy birthday to you.

LENT

WHY?

~ HERO ~

~ EVIL VILLAIN ~

Responsive Reading – Isaiah 43: 1-3

But now, this is what the LORD says—he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. When you
pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned.

The flames will not set you ablaze.

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

You are mine.

You are Mine - TFWS 2218

I will come to you in the silence,
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear My voice, I claim you as My choice,
Be still, and know I am near.

I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light;
Come and rest in Me.

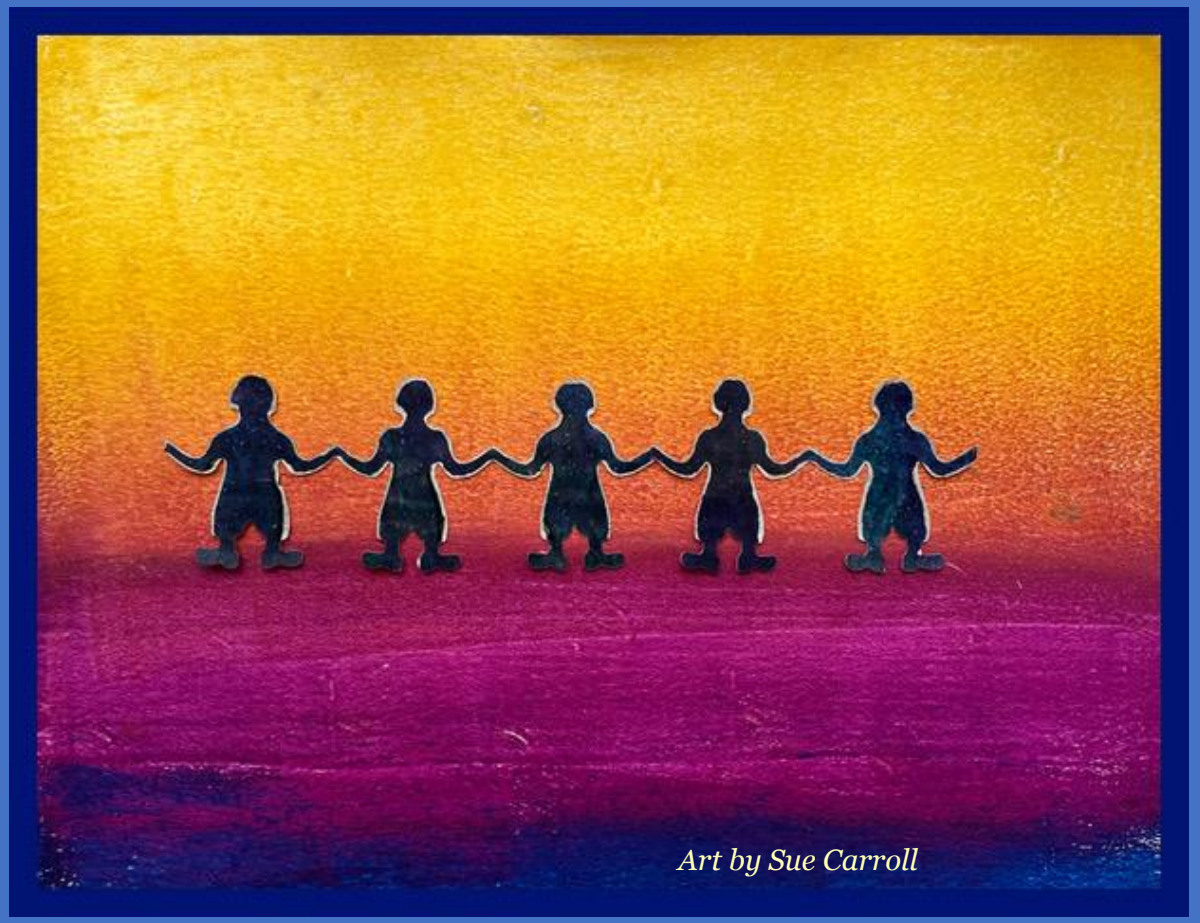
I am strength for all the despairing,
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free,
And all will know My name.

I am the Word that leads all to freedom
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain,
Stand up, now walk, and live.

Do not be afraid, I am with you;
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow Me; I will bring you home,
I love you and you are mine.

John 3: 21

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.



Opening Prayer

Merciful Father,

Sometimes we get stuck on seeing things our way rather than Yours. Sometimes we might even think OUR plan is better than Yours.

When that happens, please shine your light—full strength upon us—so that we see clearly just what we are doing.

Lord, we seek to live by Your truth, not ours. **Amen**

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Thirty pieces of silver

Zephaniah 3:14,15, 17

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you will no longer fear evil.

The LORD your God is with you, **the Mighty Warrior who saves.**

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your **king** comes to you,

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Matthew 26: 47-50

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, suddenly arrived. A large mob, with swords and clubs, was with him from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest Him!"

At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!"
and kissed Him.

"**Friend,**" Jesus asked him, "**why have you come?**"

Then they came up, took hold of Jesus, and arrested Him.

Matthew 13: 13

Though seeing, they do not see;

though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

Be Thou My Vision – UMH 451

Be Thou my vision, o Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night.
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word.
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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Community Prayer

LORD Jesus, no one who loves You ever wants to think they have anything in common with Judas. Your disciples were shocked when You said at the last supper that one of them was going to betray you.

But what about when we decide to make our own choices that go against what we know You want us to do? When we think we know better than You what is best for us? Isn't that something we tend to do too easily, doing the same thing as Judas?

LORD, help us to put aside our desires to make our own choices instead of paying attention to what we know You want us to do. You gave up so much so that we can be forgiven all of our sins, and now we need to be willing to give them up too—all of them, small and great! ***AMEN***

Offering and Doxology
UM Hymnal 95

We give thanks for this wonderful,
generous community of faith.

Doxology - UM Hymnal 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Benediction

Photo by James Gardner