



Photo by James Gardner

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!

Happy Birthday, Mirna, Charity, and Leticia!

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.

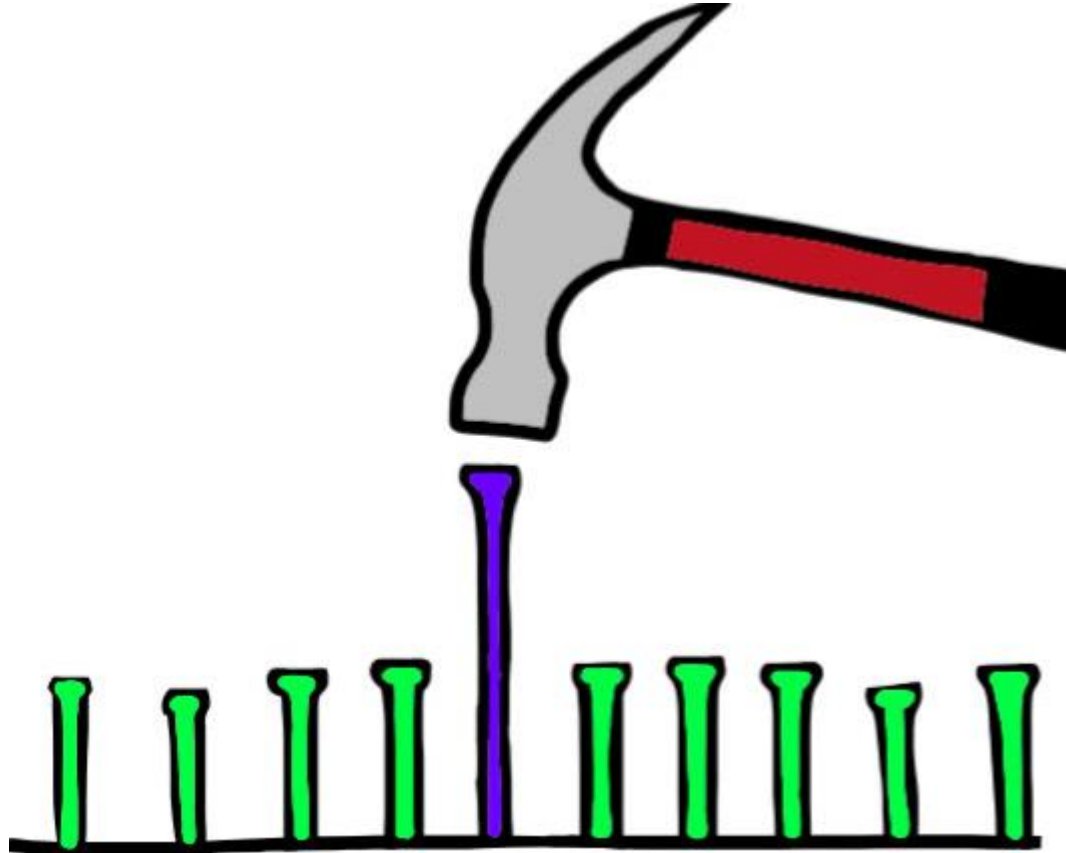


MIRNIA



Nicodemus

出る釘は打たれる



The nail that sticks out gets hammered down.



John 3: 1-9 (NIV)

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus *late at night* and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."



"How can someone be born when they are old?"
Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second
time into their mother's womb to be born!"



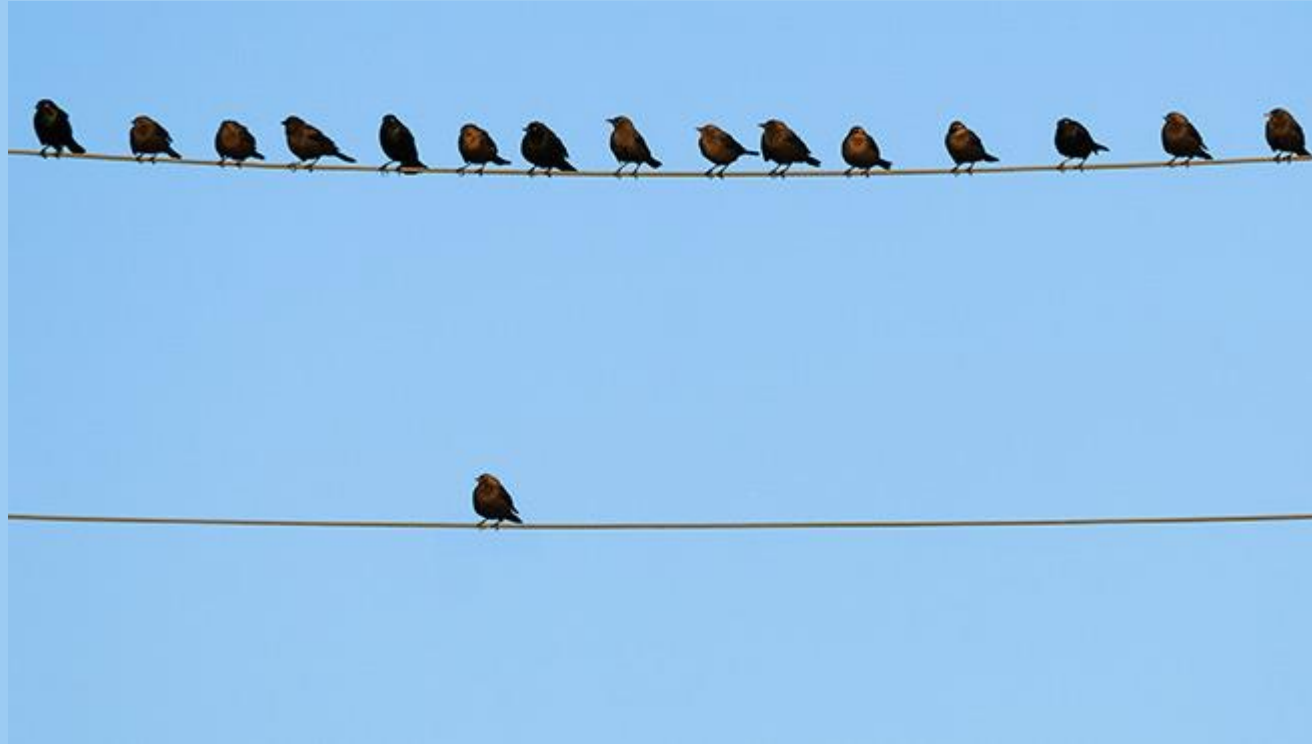
Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit....You should not be surprised at my saying, *'You must be born again....'*"

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.





Nicodemus...came to Jesus late at night and said,
"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come
from God. For no one could perform the signs you are
doing if God were not with him."



It's easy to stand in the crowd,
but it takes courage to stand alone.”

– *Mahatma Gandhi*

BALANCING



ACT

Opening Prayer

Father,

Like Nicodemus, most of us are on a journey of deeper understanding. Like Nicodemus, we struggle with our understanding of the world, but see a vision of how it might be.

Jesus gave Nicodemus a glimpse of that different world, and in time Nicodemus found the courage to face the challenges and risks to seek it out.

Lord, help us be like Nicodemus. Help us find the courage and the conviction to follow You, even when it's hard. Help us commit to seeking Your Truth—no matter what—just like Nicodemus. *Amen*



Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore - UMH 344

Tu has venido a la orilla,
no has buscando ni a sabios ni a ricos,
Tan solo quieres que yo te siga.

Señor me has mirado a los ojos
y sonriendo has dicho mi nombre;
en la arena he dejado mi barca;
junto a ti buscare otro mar.

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
Looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
You only asked me to follow humbly,

O Lord, with your eyes you have
searched me, and while smiling have
spoken my name; Now my boat's left
on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

Responsive Reading: Job 8: 12-24

“... Where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell?

**No mortal comprehends its worth; it cannot be found
in the land of the living.**

The deep says, ‘It is not in me’; the sea says, ‘It is not with me.’

**It cannot be bought with the finest gold, nor can its price
be weighed in silver.**

Neither gold nor crystal can compare with it, nor can it be had for jewels of gold.

**Coral and jasper are not worthy of mention;
the price of wisdom is beyond rubies...**

Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell?



It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds of the air.

Destruction and Death say, ‘Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.’

God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells,

for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.

John 7: 45-52 (NRSV)



Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why did you not arrest him?"

"No one ever spoke the way this man does," the police answered.



"You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted.

"You don't see any of the rulers or the Pharisees believing in him, do you? No! It's only this crowd, that knows nothing of the law, that is taken in by him."



Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before and who was one of them, asked, "Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?"

They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Examine the evidence and you will find that no prophet is to arise from Galilee."



John 19: 38-40

Joseph of Arimathea was a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one, because he feared the Jewish leaders. Joseph asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away.

Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus at night, **came now in broad daylight**. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. He and Joseph took Jesus' body and wrapped it with the spices in strips of linen, according to Jewish burial customs.



Well
then...
GET A
SCOOTER!



Amazing Grace – UMH 378

Verse 1

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.*

Verse 2

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed*

Verse 3

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

Verse 4

*The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.*

Verse 5

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.*

Verse 6

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun*



Community Prayer

Lord,

We give thanks that all our times are in Your hands! We ask for the grace to leave them there and trust in Your love and grace to give us Your best.

Often we are slow to understand the lessons that Jesus came to teach us. Sometimes in the midst of all the world's distractions, we miss the point. We are grateful for Your everlasting patience, as You wait for us to understand. ***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



Painting by Kim DeGroat



Blessed Assurance - UMH 369

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood

**This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long.**



Art by Sue Carroll