



Sunday, March 3, 2024

Culmore  
United Methodist Church

Welcome and  
Good Morning!



Charlie Irene Kingan





# Happy Birthday!

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.



What is truth?



## Great is Thy Faithfulness - UMH 140



Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness,  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning  
new mercies I see  
All I have needed  
Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness,  
Lord, unto me



## John 18: 33-38

Pilate summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"



Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.





Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king.  
In fact, the reason I was born and came  
into the world is to testify to the truth.  
Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

**"What is truth?"** retorted Pilate.



What is truth?

## John 8: 31-33

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him,  
"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples;  
you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."





I am the Way and the Truth,  
and the Life....

John 14: 6

# Opening Prayer

Loving God,

What is truth, indeed? We live in a world where it seems to be relative, depending on someone's perspective and what they want to see. These varying shades of gray make it hard for us to discern the truth.



***Truth?***

May we always seek to know the truth—Your Truth—no matter what. May we want to find Your Truth more than anything else in the world.

Lord, let us *see clearly*, then give us dedicated hearts and minds to go where Your truth leads us, even when it's hard. *Amen*





# Prayer

## John 11: 47-50

The chief priests and Pharisees called together the council and said, "What are we going to do? This man is doing many miraculous signs! If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our people."

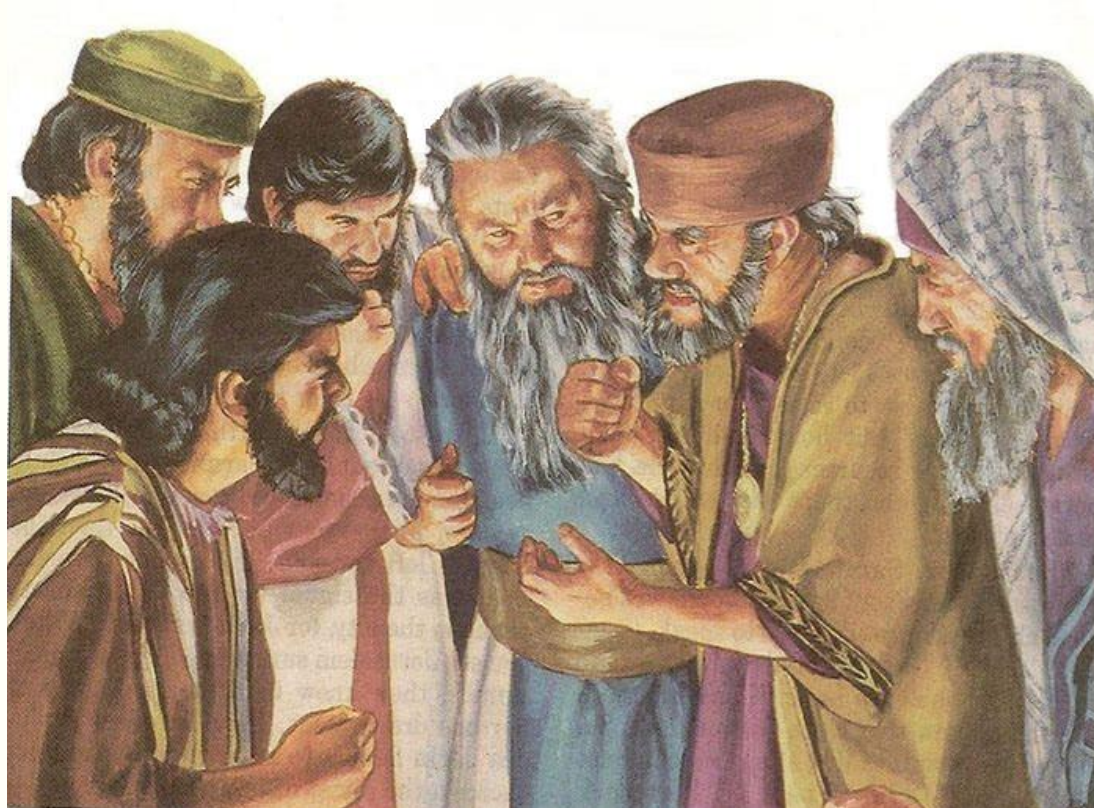




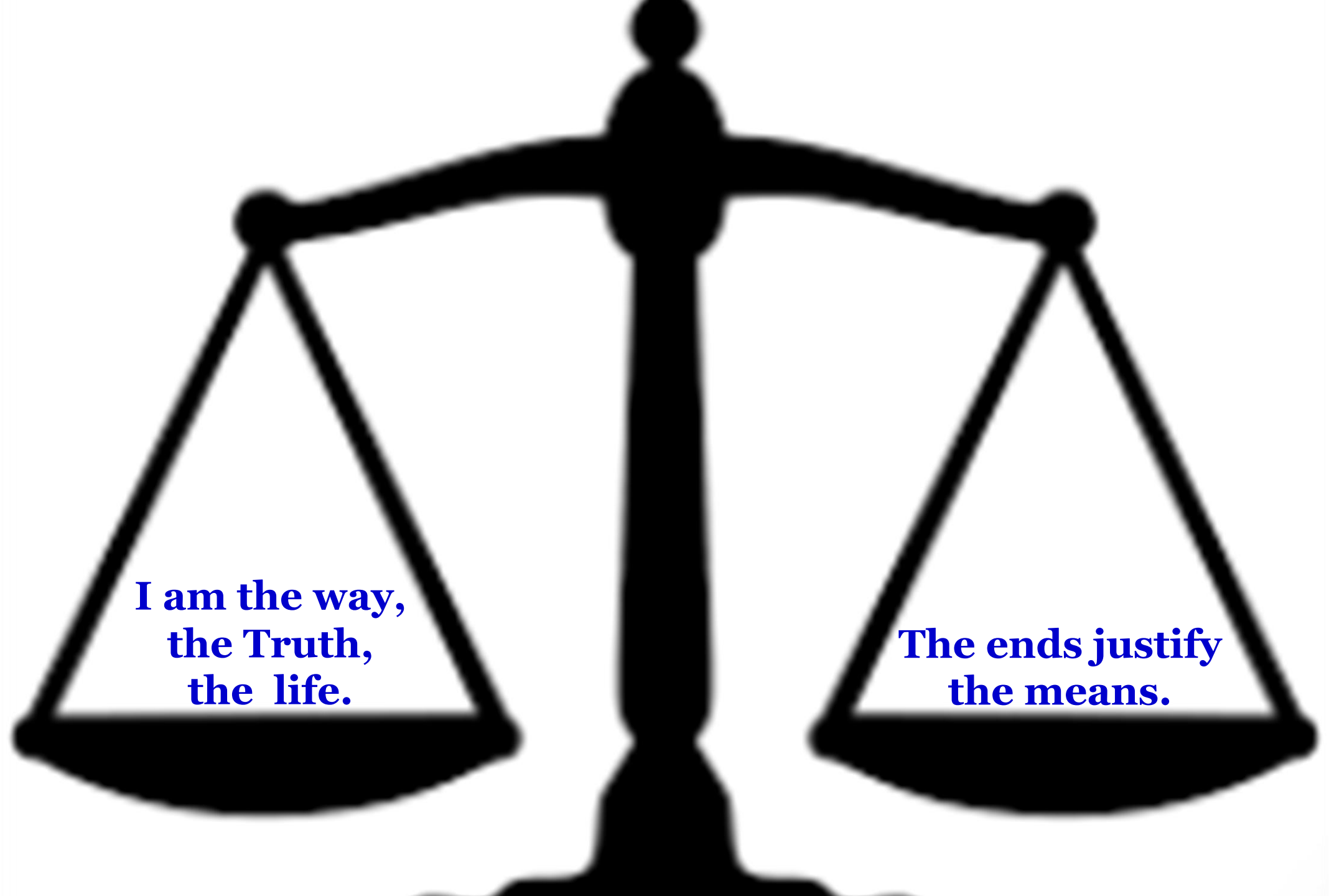
One of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, old them, "You don't know anything! **You don't see** that it is better for you that one man die for the people rather than the whole nation be destroyed."



...and from that day on they plotted to kill him.



The ends justify the means....  
*do they?*



**I am the way,  
the Truth,  
the life.**

**The ends justify  
the means.**

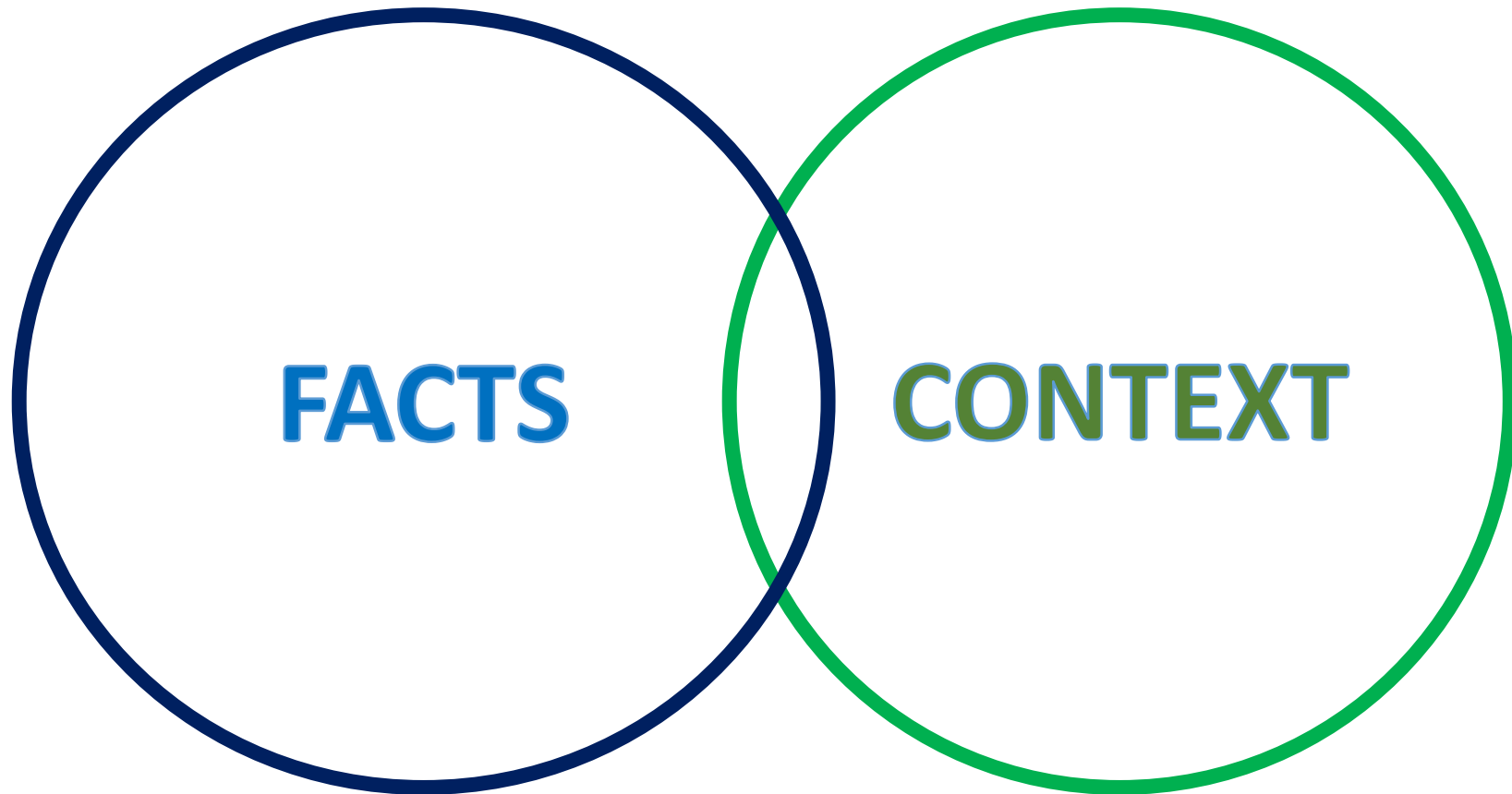


**Facts are critical to  
determining the truth  
—but—  
they are not the sole factor.**

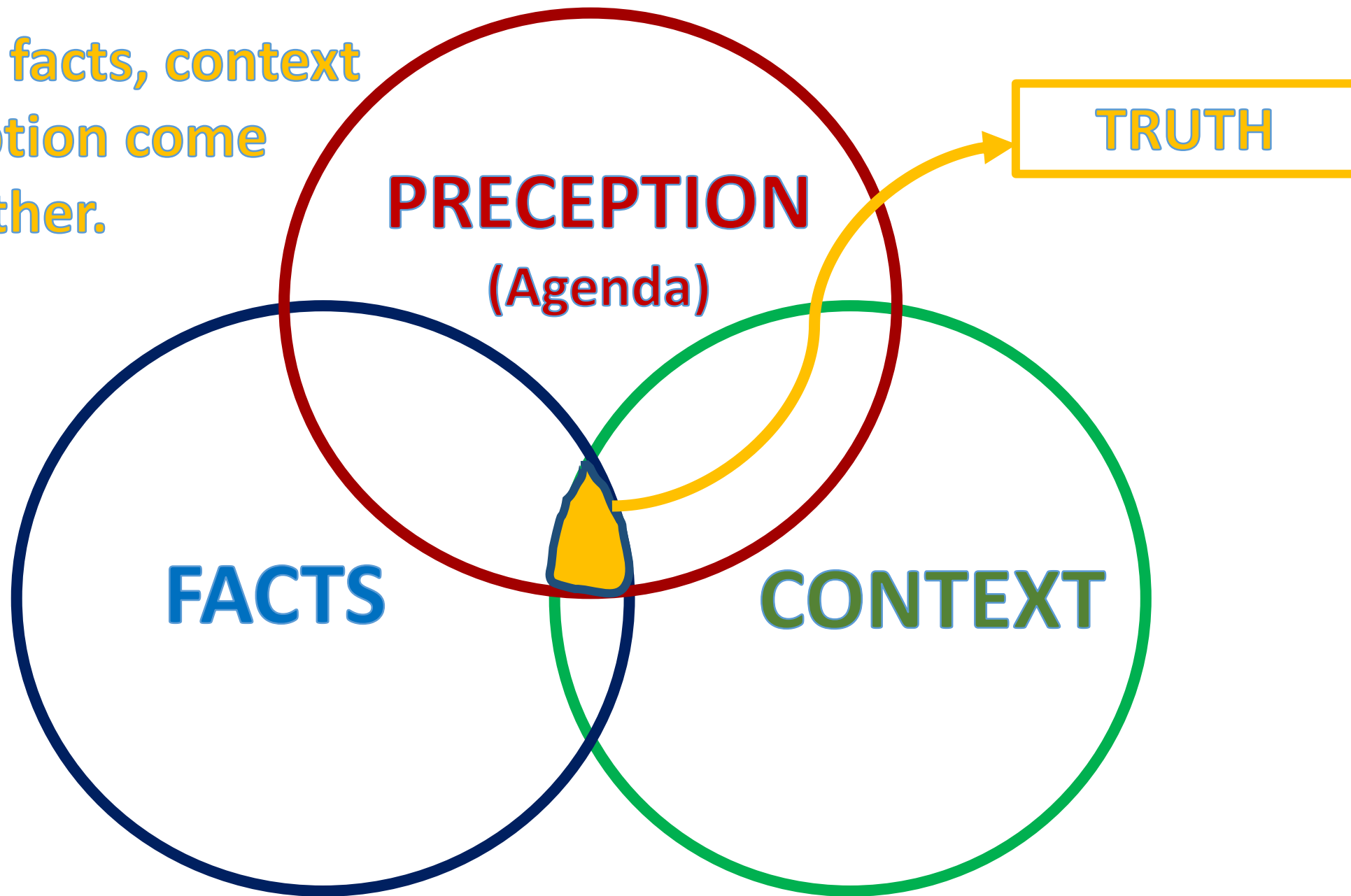


**FACTS**

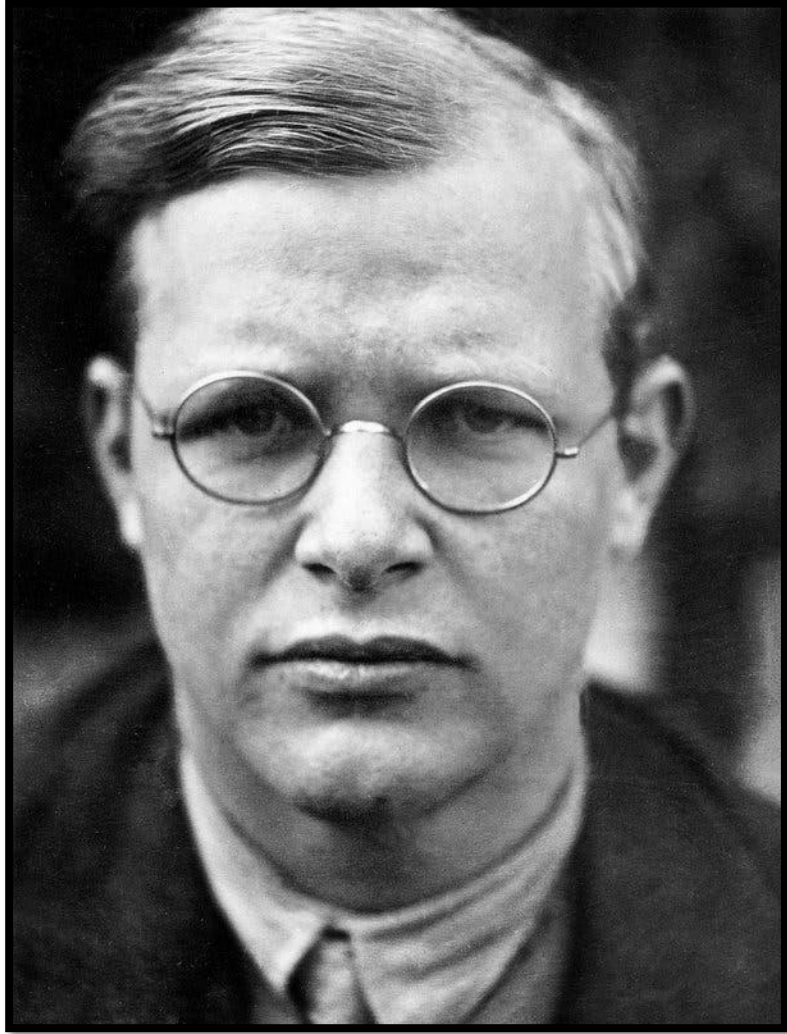
To determine truth, facts must be  
considered within their own context.



Truth is where facts, context  
and perception come  
together.



# Dietrich Bonhoeffer



1906 - 1945

Pastor

Martyr

Prophet

Spy



**Salvation History was Fulfilled.**



# Community Prayer

Lord Jesus,

There is a common saying that there is no one so blind as someone who refuses to see. That is what Pilate did before Your crucifixion. The truth of who You are and what was happening should have been very clear. He asked "*What is truth?*" as a way to avoid facing it.

Forgive us, LORD for the times we have done the same.

We don't want to face the truth, in order to avoid being challenged to do something because of it....or we might not like the way it affects us personally.

Give us the grace to choose what You are calling us to do.

Help us to ***see clearly.*** ***AMEN***

## 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, you are my treasure.

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.



# Offering and Doxology

## UM Hymnal 95



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



Communion



# Holy Communion



God asks that we love him, confess our sins, and grow close to him in faith.

In this holy space, let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive his holy sacrament.

## Prayer of Confession & Declaration of Forgiveness

Our heavenly Father, You know how often we stumble.

We don't come to this table trusting in ourselves;

but instead, trusting in You and Your unfailing mercy.

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, which proves

His love and grace. We are a forgiven people. **Amen**

# The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you;

*Congregation: and also with you.*

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

*Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.*

Pastor: It is a good and joyful thing to always give thanks to you.  
Even when we turned away and our love failed, your love  
remained steadfast. And so we praise Your Holy name.



Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,*

God of power and might,  
*God of power and might,*

Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
*Heaven and earth are full of your glory*

Hosanna in the highest.  
*Hosanna in the highest.*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name  
of the Lord.

*Blessed is the one who comes  
in the name of the Lord.*

Hosanna in the highest.  
*Hosanna in the highest.*



On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

*"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.*

*Do this in remembrance of me."*





When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
he gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples,  
and said, *"Drink from this all of you. This is  
my blood of the new covenant poured out for  
you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as  
often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.





**Leader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again**

**Leader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**



*Photo by James Gardner*

All honor and glory is yours,  
almighty God, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

***Amen, amen, amen.***



## Blessing of the Elements

Loving and eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the entire world, until Christ comes in final victory. **Amen**



## Breaking of the Bread



## Lifting of the Cup



Just as there is one loaf, we who are many are one body.  
Just as we all partake of one loaf, the bread which we share  
is also a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing of the Blood of Christ.

# Partaking of the Elements



# Benediction



*Art by Sue Carroll*