



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
of MARIETTA

April 23, 2017

A GOOD LUCK SYMBOL?

The little palm crosses that our worshipers wore on Palm Sunday have been a part of my Palm Sunday worship experience for years, but this was the first year we have used them here. I felt like I had reconnected to an old friend when mine was handed to me a couple of Sundays ago.

I remember several years ago wearing the palm cross to a restaurant after worship and the cross was the topic of discussion for several people. A lady asked what it was and I responded, "It's a palm cross. We wore them in worship this morning." "Oh," she said. "Is it supposed to bring good luck or something like that?"

I honestly didn't know how to answer that. Good luck? Hardly! Some hucksters and television evangelists might have us believe that our faith is little more than a good luck symbol. Some teach that by expressions of faith, by prayer and denial, we can manipulate the will of God; that by temporary obedience we can effect healing and the dispensation of great wealth. Some teach that the discipline of faith is merely a means to an end, and usually a selfish one. And those people proclaim a shallow God, do they not?

Jesus said many things about the cross but he never said it would bring us good luck. He said, in fact, that it would probably get us in trouble. He said that adherence to the way of the cross would bring about conflict, sometimes with those closest to us. He said that such adherence might well cost us some friendships, some wealth, and perhaps our homes. It might well get some stones cast in our direction. But good luck? Hardly.

But the cross compels people to action. The cross outlasts our good luck symbols and the charlatans who do business in its name. It endures because it promises the love of God, regeneration of the spirit, and eternal life. It can give purpose where there is none and redemption when none seems possible. But be careful with it. It can raise some interesting questions and it can get us into some trouble.

We talk about the cross here each week and there is a place for you.

Sam R. Matthews

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Second Sunday of Easter (White)
Holy Communion

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES (8:55 a.m. and 11:10 a.m.)

Dr. Sam R. Matthews

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lori Ethridge

You, O LORD, are our chosen portion, the cup of our salvation and the bread of life.

The boundary lines have fallen in pleasant places for us.

We bless you, O LORD, for giving us counsel.

You are always before us, providing instruction.

Our hearts are glad, and our souls rejoice.

In your presence there is fullness of joy.

(From Psalm 16)

PRELUDE

Let Us Break Bread Together

D. Lasky

CHORAL INTROIT

Alleluia

traditional tune

*HYMN

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

Hymnal 304

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

ANTHEM

When Thomas First The Tidings Heard

15th century
French tune, arr. J. Bohart

BAPTISM

Brahm Aiden Jha (9 a.m.)
Son of Jimi and Sameer Jha

Piper Ann Waltemeyer (11:15 a.m.)
Daughter of Amanda and Chad Waltemeyer

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*HYMN

One Bread, One Body
(verse 1)

Hymnal 620

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Brian Smith

GIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *A Meditation On Brother James' Air* H. Darke

*DOXOLOGY Hymnal 95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20: 19-31

SERMON FIRST CHURCH Dr. Matthews

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*HYMN *To God Be The Glory* Hymnal 98

COMMISSIONING OF REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA MISSION TEAM (11:15 a.m.)

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Alleluia* traditional tune

*POSTLUDE *Allegro Maestoso E Vivace* from "Sonata No. 4 F. Mendelssohn

**Those who are able, please stand.*

GIFTS TO MFUMC: In memory Rev. Sam Storey by Teddy & Jack Wilson, Janice & Mike Wilson, Lindell DeJarnett Sunday School Class, Jane & Bruce Kyburz, Beverly & Rupert Raines, Mary & Chuck Spivey, Carol & Chuck Franzman, Sylvia & Conley Ingram, Marian & Bill Smith, Bebe Meaders, Dr. Bob Bowling, Pam & Robert Gates, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burnett, Judy & Gene Smith, Betty & Bob Sheldon, Waights Henry III, and Becky & John Bowling.

This week at MFUMC

HOSPITALIZED: Meredith Brown, Harry Ludwig

OUT OF THE HOSPITAL: Kathleen Ingram, Mary Cauthorn, Tim Callahan, Gayle Tallman, Edna Jefferson

FLOWERS: The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jack Vaughan, Sr. , and in memory of Jack Vaughan, Jr. on the occasion of his birthday by the family.

The rose on the Altar Table is given to the glory of God in celebration of the birth of Evelyn Brooks Orr, daughter of Lindsay and Scott Orr, born on April 13, 2017.

SYMPATHY: To Mary and Chuck Spivey at the death of her sister.

Restore to Glory! At present, our outstanding debt on Restore to Glory!, our major renovation project, is \$28,000. Our hope is to have the debt completely erased by the end of this month. Please check to see if your pledged commitment is up to date, and please consider an extra gift to RTG!

The Global Day of Service is this Saturday, April 29 at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Hall. This service event is designed for all ages and is a great way for our church family to join together to provide nutritious meals for communities around the world. Learn more and sign up at www.mariettafumc.org/servetheworld. (Forrest Cate, ext. 7806)

The MFUMC Sporting Clay Tournament is Friday, May 12 at Garland Mountain. For more information, visit www.mariettafumc.org/clays. (Forrest Cate, ext. 7806)

Membership Sunday is April 30. If you would like to make Marietta First United Methodist your church home, consider joining the church with others on Membership Sunday. Contact Rev. Brian Smith (briansmith@mariettafumc.org or ext. 7840) or visit www.mariettafumc.org/membership.

Worship Services Live Streaming. For those unable to join us on Sunday mornings, our 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. worship services will be live streamed each week. On any electronic device-computer, tablet, or smart phone-simply go to our church website, www.mariettafumc.org.

Family Field Day coming soon! Enjoy old fashioned fun and games on Wednesday, May 10 from 5-7 p.m. There will be field games, music, snow cones, picnic supper and pie-in-the-face throws. All ages are welcome! (Kelly Duncan, ext. 7812)

Marietta FUMC is heading to the Braves game on Wednesday evening, May 24. The cost is \$20, and we will depart from the Polk Street lot at 5:30 p.m. (Rev. Lori Ethridge, ext. 7835).

A Choral Evensong, presented by our Chancel and Youth choirs, will be on Sunday, May 7 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Music will include *The Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. No cost or reservation required. (Jim Bohart, ext. 7815)

Habitat build. Saturdays April 29, May 13, May 20 and June 3 are this year's build dates. You can help by building or providing food. Sign up at www.mariettafumc.org/buildit. (Forrest Cate, ext. 7806)

Graduation Sunday is May 7. All high school seniors are invited to participate in the service and attend a luncheon at 12:15 p.m. Contact Jonathan Sanders at youthintern@mariettafumc.org by April 25 for more information and to RSVP. (Jessica Ferguson, ext. 7822)

It's time to register for Vacation Bible School and summer camps! There are programs for nursery, preschool and elementary ages. For more details and to register, visit www.mariettafumc.org/summer. (Kelly Duncan, ext. 7812)

All Men of the Church are invited to breakfast on Friday, May 19 at 6:30 a.m. in the Family Life Hall to learn more about our ministry for men and to meet other men of the church. (Forrest Cate, ext. 7806)

To give electronically during worship to support the ministries of MFUMC, text any dollar amount to 84321.

Worship Leaders

Senior Minister:
Dr. Sam R. Matthews

Associate Ministers:
Rev. Elaine Wilder
Rev. Brian Smith

Minister to Senior Adults:
Rev. Lori Ethridge

Interim Director of Music:
Jim Bohart

Organist:
Brian Parks

Director of Ensembles:
Judy Jones

Pianist:
Brenda Brent

9 a.m. Service
Acolyte: Nicole Ramirez