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Sunday, January 28, 2024 † 10:30 a.m. Worship

Welcome

Opening Hymn How Firm a Foundation UMH #529

A Time of Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who are in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

#### **Passing of the Peace**

#### Offering

Doxology	Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow	UMH #95
Hymn of the Day	Stand by Me	UMH #512
Announcements		
Scripture	Esther 4:1-17	Pastor Sara McManus
Message	Doubt Takes Courage	Pastor Sara McManus
* Closing Hymn	Pass it On	UMH #572

<sup>\*</sup> Benediction

## **How Firm a Foundation**

### Verse 1:

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word! What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

### Verse 2:

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

### Verse 3:

"When through the deep waters, I call thee to go, the rivers of woe, shall not thee overflow; for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee, thy deepest distress.

### Verse 4:

"When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

### Verse 5:

"The soul that on Jesus, still leans for repose, I will not, I will not, desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell, should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

## Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH #95)

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

# Stand by Me

## **UMH #512**

Verse 1
When the storms of life are raging, stand by me
When the storms of life are raging, stand by me

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When the world is pounding me Like a ship upon the sea thou who rules the wind and water, stand by me

Verse 2
In the midst of tribulation, stand by me
In the midst of tribulation, stand by me

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When the hosts of hell assail And my strength begins to fail thou who never lost a battle, stand by me

Verse 3 In the midst of faults and failures,

stand by me In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me

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When I've done the best I can And my friends misunderstand Thou who knowest all about me, stand by me

Verse 4
In the midst of persecution, stand by me
In the midst of persecution, stand by me

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When my foes in war array
Undertake to stop my way
Thou who saved Paul and Silas,
stand by me

Verse 5
When I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me
When I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me

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When my life becomes a burden

And I'm nearing chilly Jordan
O thou Lily of the Valley
stand by me

## **Esther 4:1-17**

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them. Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to

Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people.

Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, 'All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden sceptre to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.' When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, 'Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.' Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, 'Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I

perish.' Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

# Pass it On UMH #572

Verse 1:

It only takes a spark to get a fire going, And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.

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That's how it is with God's love. Once you've experienced it, You spread the love to everyone. You want to pass it on.

### Verse 2:

What a wond'rous time is spring, When all the tress are budding. The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.

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That's how it is with God's love, Once you've experienced it. You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, You want to pass it on.

## Verse 3:

I wish for you my friend
This happiness that I've found.
You can depend on Him,
It matters not where you're bound.

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I'll shout it from the mountaintop,
I want the world to know
The Lord of Love has come to me.
I want to pass it on.