

**St. Timothys United Methodist Church**  
3220 Terrace Drive  
319-266-0464  
<http://www.sttims-umc.org/>



**February 15, 2009 – 10:15 am**  
**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Celebrating Reconciling Ministries**

***(Large print bulletins and hymnals and hearing aid devices are available. A nursery is provided for children younger than First Grade. Ask an usher to help you.)***

### **Gathering**

**Prelude**

*"Foundation"*

Barrett

(We invite you to use the prelude as a time for centering on God, the Holy, the Spirit, the Living Jesus. Please be considerate of others for whom this is a quiet time.)

### **Greeting and Welcome**

**Anthem**

Chancel Choir with St. Timothys Children

*"We Are Singing, For the Lord Is Our Light"* – Arr. Hopson

### **Call to Worship**

Responsively

Leader: We are part of the church universal – faithful people of every color, gender, class, sexual orientation, age ability, gathered to love and serve God.

***All: We are a Reconciling Congregation. Together, let us worship God, rejoicing in the good news which we celebrate this day!***

L: There is a place in God's heart, there is a place at Christ's table, there is a place here and in every welcoming church for all people – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and straight!

***All: Christ who gathers us, bids us follow in the ways of love and justice.***

L: May our hearts be open to Christ's leading in our worship and our living, this day and always.

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**\*Opening Song**

*"Wounded World That Cries For Healing"*

Black hymnal, 2177

### **Unison Prayer**

***Blessing God, whose caring hands cupped beneath the elements of the universe and – like a potter – fashioned the very vessels of our being, reach***

*out your hand in blessing on us this morning. As you drew the lines of our palms and shaped the idiosyncrasies of our fingers, teach us to reach out our hands to others in love; help us not to raise the threatening fist, but to warmly grasp the possibilities of new-found reconciliations.*

*Soften our touch, O God: for your creation suffers from warring and pollution, and your people reach out for help and solace. Encourage and strengthen us with your wisdom until we become like you, fashioners of justice and love, hands open for peace and benediction, gathering blessing and flourishing life for all. Amen.*

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### **Praying**

**Call to Prayer** "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" Black hymnal, 2200

#### **Sharing Joys and Concerns**

(After each joy or concern, we sing, "**O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.**")

#### **Silent Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer** (sing responsively) Black hymnal, 2278

#### **\*Passing the Peace**

### **Listening to the Word**

**Scripture Song** "When God Restored Our Common Life" Black hymnal, 2182(1)

**Hebrew Scriptures** Isaiah 58:9b-10 Pew Bible, 688

**Scripture Song** "When God Restored Our Common Life" Black hymnal, 2182(2)

**The Christian Gospel** Luke 13:10-17 Pew Bible, 76

**Scripture Song** "When God Restored Our Common Life" Black hymnal, 2182(3)

**Sermon** "Set Free" Jill Sanders

**Sermon Response** "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" Insert

### **Responding to the Word**

#### **Announcements and Opportunities**

## Personal Witness

### Offertory Sentence

Liturgist

We have good news to share with all who feel forsaken and desolate. We have gifts to share with those whose resources are depleted. In those times and places where we cannot give ourselves, we offer our treasure, that others may carry forward and extend our ministry. Let us give in gratitude to God and in response to our neighbor's need.

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### Offertory

"Chanson Triste"

Ravel

### \*Dedication Song

"Seek Ye First"

Red hymnal, 405

### \*Prayer of Dedication

Unison

***God, you have been our shelter from one generation to another. Overarching sky, shading tree, deepest waters, pulsing veins. You have spread you vine widely bringing us a bounteous fruitfulness of care and nurture, fulfillment and peace. Grow in us that we may root ourselves in your visions of justice and mercy. Open our arms that we might lift another's burdens. Speak through our mouths that we might comfort the afflicted. Urge our feet that we might march in solidarity with the wounded. Teach us to be the household of God, a people spreading out the everlasting branches of love. Amen.***

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### \*Affirmation of Faith

***I believe it is a matter of faith to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.***

***I believe it is a matter of faith to recognize equally and love all members of God's human family. There are no exceptions to God's love.***

***I believe God's creation is good, beautiful and sacred; therefore to condemn any portion of God's creation is to condemn a portion of God. This is sin.***

***I believe Jesus Christ came to us to free all people from sin and to make disciples – people willing to live Christ's discipline of love and justice for all.***

***I believe the Holy Spirit is that power within us that gives us courage and stamina to face the truth and to live it, even to die for it, as Jesus died.***

***I believe in the resurrection, the victory over death, and the truth that is life for all in Jesus' name.***

***Glory is to God, the One in Three: Creator, Savior, and Holy Power of love. Amen.***

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## Going Forth

**\*Closing Song**      *"Guide Us To Openness"*      Tune: *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

***Guide us to openness, Spirit of mercy,  
Aid us in seeking God's justice and grace.  
Move us to show Christ's compassion through witness,  
Love first to offer and hate to erase.***

*Refrain: Guide us to openness! Guide us to openness!*

***Let no one ever be shunned or denied.***

***Make of the Church a bold place of compassion,***

***That all who seek You may come and abide.***

***Spirit of tenderness, impart Your presence,***

***Fill both our hearts and our hands with Your care.***

***Let no one suffer or grieve unattended,***

***Grant us Your kindness and warmth here to share.***

*Refrain*

***Though there are those who would limit Christ's graces,***

***Still we refuse to believe in such lies,***

***For in this time we have made a commitment***

***Never to limit love's power or size.***

*Refrain*

© W. Robert Martin, III, Words by The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III, Pastor, First Presbyterian

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*A Place in God's Heart... A Place at Christ's Table, page 48*

Worship Resources for the Welcoming Movement. [www.WelcomingResources.org](http://www.WelcomingResources.org)

**\*Blessing**

**\*Blessing Response**      "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"      Insert

**\*Postlude**      "March"      Lemmens

\* = The Congregation is invited to stand

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We are pleased to **welcome the Rev. Jill Sanders** to our pulpit today. Jill is the FOM (Field Outreach Minister) for the East Central District; Jill lives in Cedar Rapids. Jill was very helpful to us in the process of becoming affiliated with RMN by leading us in a conversation on homosexuality in March of 2007.