



REI~~VO~~LUTION


July 15, 2017

4:00 pm Saturday Afternoon Worship

Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Nelson

320 W Seventh St, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

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Welcome to Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Visitors are encouraged to fill out the Friendship Folder along with our members.

Hearing enhancement devices and **large print bulletins** are available from the ushers.

*All who choose may stand

FWS: Song printed in black The Faith We Sing Hymnal **UMH:** Song printed in blue United Methodist Hymnal

Welcome

* **Hymn #159 (UMH)** Lift High The Cross

* **Call to Worship**

One: God has called us to this place. What do you see?

All: We see people who embrace all.

One: God has brought us to this place. What do you hear?

All: We hear words of hope that all people are our sisters and brothers.

One: God has challenged us to open our lives and hearts to the world. What will you do?

All: We will do only one thing: welcome everyone in a spirit of love!

Hymn #393 (UMH) Spirit of the Living God

* **Greeting Your Neighbor**

Invitation to Mission

Time of Prayer

Prayer Requests

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art 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.

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

* Doxology Hymn #95 (UMH)

Hymn #64 (UMH) Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Scripture

Acts 7:51-60

Common English Bible

“You stubborn people! In your thoughts and hearing, you are like those who have had no part in God’s covenant! You continuously set yourself against the Holy Spirit, just like your ancestors did. Was there a single prophet your ancestors didn’t harass? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the righteous one, and you’ve betrayed and murdered him! You received the Law given by angels, but you haven’t kept it.”

Once the council members heard these words, they were enraged and began to grind their teeth at Stephen. But Stephen, enabled by the Holy Spirit, stared into heaven and saw God’s majesty and Jesus standing at God’s right side. He exclaimed, “Look! I can see heaven on display and the Human One standing at God’s right side!” At this, they shrieked and covered their ears. Together, they charged at him, threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses placed their coats in the care of a young man named Saul. As they battered him with stones, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, accept my life!” Falling to his knees, he shouted, “Lord, don’t hold this sin against them!” Then he died.

Message

Something to Die For

Jeff Nelson

* **Closing Song #530 (UMH)**

Are Ye Able

Blessing

Dear Friends,

There's something powerful that happens when we can connect our faith with the realities of our world. We are concerned not just with going to heaven when we die, but with bringing God's kingdom down here; being a part of the restoration of our world. As we look at our neighborhood, what does it mean for us to pray the Lord's Prayer, praying that God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven? We pray and act for that every day because we want it to come.

We want to start a movement that connects action and contemplation. We're not throwing out the things we believe, but we're focusing on practices that apply those beliefs. Too often Christianity has primarily been about what we believe. But in Jesus we see an invitation to join our actions with a movement rather than ideas.

We are not interested in a Christianity that can say what it believes on paper but doesn't have anything to show for itself within how it lives. Ideologies and doctrines aren't easy things to love.

That's why I love Mother Teresa. She wasn't a champion of unborn children because she wore a t-shirt that said "Abortion Is Murder," but because she welcomed mothers and children. In essence, she said, "If you can't raise your child, we'll do it together." That's the kind of embodiment that comes as we seek to marry our beliefs to our actions.

Mother Teresa's message was, "Calcutta is everywhere, if we only have eyes to see." Pray that God would help us see our own Calcutta: the pain, poverty, loneliness, and ostracizing that happens all over. Each of us encounters situations that demand both prayer and activism.

Pray that God would give us the eyes to see the pain of our neighborhoods and community. That's what will spark this rEVOLution of love.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Ed
