

Morning Worship
First Sunday in Lent



February 21, 2021 (Online)

Ringling of the Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude Music

Call to Worship

One: Loving God, you call us to turn away from our own selfish interests,
To take up our cross, and to follow you.

All: To find our lives, may we live them in service of your mission.

One: As we come before you this morning, give us open hearts and open
hands.

All: Make us eager to hear your voice and seek your guidance.

One: Open our minds to your ever-present spirit that is always moving
within and around us.

All: Open our spirits to your nudging and open our lives to your love.

Prayer of Invocation

**Almighty God,
by your Holy Spirit
you have made us one with your saints
in heaven and on earth:**

**Help us to see your presence
burning in the hearts of others;
grant that we may be united
in a fellowship of love and prayer;
give us the courage to pick up our cross
and respond to the needs of the world,
give us the stamina to follow you,
to be your hands and heart in the world;
enable us to witness to your grace and mercy.**

**We pray all this
through the love your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Call to Confession

God looks at the most broken soul and sees an angel aching to take flight. God sees our worst faults and washes them away in the waters of life. God hears our prayers of confession, and whispers sweet grace in our hearts. Let us pray together as we say,

Confession

**We hear the words from Jesus:
*"Take up your cross and follow me."***

**These words scare us.
We know what *taking up a cross* meant for him.
We do not feel able to sacrifice our lives.
We are not even ready on most days
to sacrifice smaller things for the sake of the Kingdom.**

Today O God we confess our timidity,

our weaknesses,
our fears,
and our hesitations.

As we gather today –
as we look at the cross in front of us,
as we remember the crosses
that marked our foreheads on Ash Wednesday,
such a short time ago,
to begin the Lenten journey,
as we think of the Cross that Lent calls us to journey towards
may we find strength in new places deep within our souls.
May we find courage, hope, and the peace
to really follow Jesus.
May worship today help us
to begin the Lenten journey
towards finding our crosses
and figuring out how to bear them.

Hear our prayers,
remind us of the grace that covers our sin
and offers us the endurance
to the run the race of faith.
Amen and Amen.

...time of silent prayer...

Assurance

One: What can sustain us in the days to come, what will nourish us on our Lenten journey? Look, here is all the food we need: God's Love, God's Word, God's Hope.

All: Through our struggles and burdens and into the kingdom of life, we are given daily bread for every day of the journey. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Affirmation

**I believe in God the Creator,
who made me and all things,
who set me on my path in this world.**

**I believe in God the Savior,
who is one with the Creator,
who rescued me and all creation
from the devastation of our sins
against God and creation.**

**This man, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ,
walked a path through this world,
taking on human form having been born of a woman
through the power of the Holy Spirit.
He lived and worked in this world among people just like me.
He walked God's path to death on a cross,
and rose from the dead to open our pathway to eternal life.**

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit, my counselor and guide,
who is one with the Creator and the Christ,
who through the body and blood of Jesus
brings me into communion with all people, past, present and future;
who calls me to walk a sacred way of life through this world,
caring for creation and the people I meet on the way,
loving them, helping them, welcoming them without prejudice,
being God's hands and feet in the world.**

Scripture

Psalm 22

Romans 12: 9-21

The Gospel

Matthew 16: 21-28

Morning Message

Pastor Jim

Morning Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer

Symbolic Offering

Giving takes so many shapes – but, like any spiritual discipline, the key is for that gift to grow. We grow in our knowledge of God, we grow in our faith.

If we aren't already, may we not seek to grow in our giving, as well? In the time we give? In the money we give? In the love we give?

Let us ponder this growth, and may God shine God's light across the threshold so that nothing can hold us back from this growth.

Offertory Music

Dedication

**God of all that is, all we have, all we are – we give.
We give these gifts as we reach across the thresholds of our concerns.
We give these gifts, knowing that they will give so much more.
Through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Benediction

One: God of life...God of hope...God of all

All: Lift us on your love like eagle's wings.

One: Sustain us...Guide us...Heal us

**All: Then send us forth into the world that we may serve as you serve
and love as you love.**

Amen.

***On Eagle's Wings (sung)**

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of
dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's
hand.**

*Postlude

