

Morning Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021 (Online)



Ringing of the Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude Music

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, Let us worship.

All: Teach us Your ways, O Lord, that we may walk in Your truth; give us undivided hearts to revere Your name.

Leader: We give thanks to You, O Lord our God, and we will glorify Your name forever.

All: For Your love is great towards us. You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: Let us worship, let us praise, let us give thanks!

All: Amen.

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, as we stand in awe of your goodness and mercy today, we invite you to be present amongst us by the power of your Holy Spirit. Father, we declare that we love you. Thank you that you have made the way of love known through your son Jesus Christ. We pray that you would reveal this great love to us all today as we gather to worship. Lead us by your Spirit to praise you. May our hearts overflow with thanksgiving and our mouths proclaim your everlasting greatness. In the wonderful name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Call to Confession

God doesn't call us to a blind faith...
but to a faith that is eye-opening and mind-expanding.
But we often find it more beneficial for ourselves
if we pretend, we cannot see or understand God's vision of love, hope, and
compassion for creation.

Confession

God of compassion and mercy, you sent us your Son as the savior of the world, and told us to love one another as much as you loved us. Yet, we struggle to love each other. We have a hard time loving those who are not like us, who disagree with us, or who ask us to face the truths about ourselves. You told us to love one another, because love is from God. And we often do not love those we think are dirty, hungry, lost, or undesirable. It is written that perfect love casts out fear, and yet we are afraid. Forgive us, God, and show us how to love thy way you command us to love. Release us from our judgment and our fear. Open our hearts so that they might receive your perfect love for us, and offer it to the world. Hear now the silent confessions of our hearts.

...time of silent prayer...

Words of Assurance

Leader: The good news is that God does not mock us when we fail to trust, but invites us into a deeper, more intimate relationship.

All: **Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand in my side. Trust me!**

Leader: God does not shame us when our faith waivers, but challenges us to be strengthened by God's promises.

All: **Happy are those who don't see...and yet trust!**

Leader: God's purpose is not to tear us down...but to build us up...
forgiven...refreshed...and renewed!

All: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Affirmation of Faith

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

Old Testament	Isaiah 43:1-3 and 54:10
New Testament	1 Corinthians 13:1-8

The Gospel

John 19:25-27

Morning Message

Take My Mother Home

Jan

Morning Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer

Symbolic Offering

God's ancient, steadfast love is not a love that simply waits for us to stop wandering and return home.

God's love comes seeking us, and gives us the gift of Jesus, so that we might have life abundant.

Our giving this morning,

whether we have been lost and wandering, or secure and safe, expresses our firm conviction that God is with us, no matter what.

Let us gather our gifts together

and offer them to God in gratitude, heartfelt commitment, and praise.

Offertory Music

Dedication

Generous God, your Holy Spirit recalls to us the self-giving of Jesus, and his command to love our neighbor as ourselves. We attend to this reminder as we make our offering freely, cheerfully, and generously. We care that our neighbors in need are fed, housed, healed and freed. Receive and bless our giving in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Benediction

Leader: Renewed by the power of God's unconditional love and forgiveness; strengthened by the witness of Jesus to be of service to others, we go from this place rejoicing in the opportunities to service others in Christ's name. Go in peace, and may the peace of God always dwell within you.

All: 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

If we really want to
love
we must learn
how to
forgive.

~ Mother Theresa