

Morning Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021 (Online)



Ringing of the Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude Music

Call to Worship

One: Even in these uncertain times, especially in these endless days,

All: God is fulfilling the promise of the new covenant.

One: Wherever we are, wherever we worship, at home, outside, in every sacred space,

All: may our hearts be filled with love.

One: Through quarantine and lockdowns, through lovely days and hopes that fizzled,

All: God has held tight to our hands to lead us through.

One: God's word continues to shape us, encourage us, to challenge us to faithful lives in these times.

All: In new ways, sometimes uncomfortable, we have learned to reach out to neighbors, friends, family, even strangers. Beyond these moments and days, we remain ready to serve all of God's people, to share in this covenant of grace.

Prayer of Invocation

God of the journey, you invite us, the church, "to accept the cost and joy of discipleship" and "to be your servants in the service of others." In so doing, may your presence be our guide and Jesus our model. May we respond to you in loving faithfulness. Amen.

Call to Confession

We say we want to see Jesus, but too often, we are looking in the wrong places, not listening to the right people, not noticing all the grace around us. As we reflect on our lives, join me, as we come to the One who will forgive us.

Confession

You are the heart which seeks ours, God of the new covenant, yet we turn away from you time and again. We have had so many chances to care for others in these days, yet we know we have focused on ourselves too much. We have filled our endless days with the empty calories of fear and worry. We have paid more attention to the ramblings of politicians and celebrities, not your Word of hope.

Now in these moments, and especially in the silence, come and make us new people. Write the new covenant of grace on our hearts, so we become more forgiving; write mercy, so we might become more compassionate; write hospitality, so we might include all people, just as Jesus welcomes us into the company of people who try to follow him. Amen.

...time of silent prayer...

Assurance

One: A new heart with grace, mercy, hospitality, justice written upon it.
That is God's gift to us.

All: A new heart, a new spirit, restored and forgiven, we can go to share this good news with all people. 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

Matthew 27: 57-61

Luke 23: 50-56

John 19: 38-42

The Gospel

Mark 15: 42-47

Morning Message

Pastor Jim

Morning Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer

Symbolic Offering

Jesus compels us to join him in service to others. Our church accepts the invitation and challenge to show Jesus' Way using the resources we share. Let us give as we are able to the ministries of our church..

Offertory Music

Dedication

God, there are many who "wish to see Jesus." In joy and celebration of the many gifts that we share, we ask you to bless all of our offerings. May Jesus shine in all the world. Amen.

Benediction

One: With grace written on our hearts, let us go forth,

All: to share compassion with those who struggle in these endless days.

One: With hope written on our hearts, let us go forth,

All: to continue to care for the hungry, to comfort the lonely and grieving, to become a family for the forgotten.

One: With peace written on our hearts, let us go forth,

All: to be serenity in moments of despair, to whisper words of gentleness to all.

***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**

