

Morning Worship
Third Sunday in Lent



March 7, 2021 (Online)

Ringling of the Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude Music

Call to Worship

One: Blessed be the Lord God who looks with kindness on us.

All: We are the inheritors of the promises made long ago to our ancestors.

One: Blessed be the Lord God who gathers us here in this place.

All: From across the street, from halfway around the world, God brings us home to the heart of grace.

One: Blessed be the Lord God who has remembered us.

All: Scoffers and singers, watchers and wigglers, we are those redeemed by God.

Prayer of Invocation

Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross, that all people might come within the reach of your saving embrace. Clothe us in your Spirit, that we, stretching out our hands in loving service for others, may bring those who do not know you to an awareness and love of you; who with the Creator and the Holy Spirit live and reign, One God forever! Amen!

Call to Confession

We know that we have not loved as God hopes. But however fragmented we become, God longs to hold us together in grace and peace. Let us come with our prayers of confession and need to the One who prepares the way for our words.

Confession

**In these moments, Remembering God,
we bring to you all the ways we have not loved as your people:**

**we stand by watching
 while those in need struggle to survive;
we cast our lots with those
 who worship power and success;
we offer insults rather than words of grace
 to those who care for us;
we scoff at your words
 which call us to a different lifestyle.**

**Forgive us, God of Mercy, for not knowing what we do to you, to others,
to ourselves. Speak to us through Jesus Christ, our King and our Savior,
who bears words filled with your tender mercy and gracious hope.**

...time of silent prayer...

Assurance

One: This is the good news: God remembers! Not our sins, not our foolish lives, not our rebellion. God remembers us – and redeems us!

All: **God prepares the way for us – the way to grace, to hope, to new life.
Joyfully, we offer our thanks 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 91

Colossians 1: 12-20

The Gospel

Luke 23: 35-43

Morning Message

Pastor Jim

Special Music

“All are Welcome”

Morning Prayer

Our Lord’s Prayer

Symbolic Offering

May the gifts we offer represent our willingness to deny ourselves, so others might be blessed by God’s grace, God’s peace, as well as God’s hope, in every moment of their lives. Let us joyfully receive our morning offering.

Offertory Music

Dedication

Make us foolish enough in our generosity, O God, that we might become wise enough to know that our gifts will bless others - the hungry, the lonely, the searching, the weak. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Benediction

One: As you go from here, remember the promise of God:

“I will rescue those who love me.
I will protect those who trust in my name.
When they call on me, I will answer;
I will be with them in trouble.
I will rescue them and honor them.”

All: So we go from here with joy, confident that the love and mercy of God goes with us.

***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

