

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

HOLY COMMUNION

28 February 2021

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP “As the Sun with Longer Journey”

1. As the sun with longer journey melts the winter’s snow and ice,
with its slowly growing radiance warms the seed beneath the earth,
may the sun of Christ’s uprising gently bring our hearts to life.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: During the season of Lent, we are called to return to God with all our heart.
Therefore, let us be honest with ourselves and with God as we prepare to
worship.

Silence for reflection and self-examination...

Pastor: Gracious God,

**People: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and
give us strength to turn from all sin and to serve you in newness of life.
Amen**

Pastor: By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the
death and resurrection of Christ, ✠ God forgives us all our sins. Almighty
God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

People: Amen

OPENING HYMN

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

1. Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.
2. Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
While often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.
3. Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, where faith is found.

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

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THE KYRIE

Assistant: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Assistant: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Assistant: For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Assistant: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Assistant: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Creator God, we thank you that you have shown yourself in Christ, who shared our human life, walking in the path of obedience all the way to the cross. May we also walk faithfully in Christ's way, through the power of your Spirit. Amen

WORD

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Guide My Feet”

Wendell Whalum, arr.

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord, your God,
for God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.

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THE GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

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CHILDREN'S TIME

THE SERMON

Pastor Aaron Couch

HYMN OF THE DAY “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

1. “Take up your cross,” the Savior said,
“if you would my disciple be;
forsake the past, and come this day,
and humbly follow after me.”
2. Take up your cross; let not its weight
pervade your soul with vain alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
sustain your heart,
and nerve your arm.
3. Take up your cross,
nor heed the shame,
nor let your foolish heart rebel;
for you the Lord endured the cross
to save your soul from death and hell.
4. Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for those who humbly bear the cross
one day will wear the glorious crown.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assistant: As we seek in this Lenten time to grow in our faith, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition...

Assistant: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude...

Pastor: Receive our prayers, O merciful God, and lead us in your way of life.

People: Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

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* SETTING THE TABLE

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free spirit.

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...
...to whom be honor and glory, now and forever.

People: Amen

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 and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Taste and see that the Lord is good. The body of Christ is given for us. The blood of Christ is shed for us.

BLESSING

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

People: Amen

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray. Compassionate God,

People: your Son welcomed sinners and ate with them. We give you thanks for the forgiveness and grace we have received in this meal. Make us signs of your love, that all the world may know your mercy and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May Almighty God, Creator, Savior ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and forever.

People: Amen

CLOSING HYMN

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

1. Lord of all hopefulness,
Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike,
no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking,
and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness,
Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at
the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors,
and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness,
Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing,
and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
at the eve of the day.
4. Lord of all gentleness,
Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment,
whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping,
and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
at the end of the day.

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SENDING

Assistant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.