

Celebration of Worship

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2018

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

Verse for Reflection

“It is my expectation and hope that I won’t be put to shame in anything. Rather, I hope with daring courage that Christ’s greatness will be seen in my body now as always, whether I live or whether I die. For to me, to live is Jesus Christ, serving Christ in all things.”

Philippians 1:21

God Invites Us to Worship

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE *Morning Song* arr. Martin

We Offer Praise

WORDS IN PREPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Leader: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

All: We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the wilderness of this world.

Leader: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wastelands.

All: We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice – even and especially as Lent begins.

Leader: Let us worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

All: We praise God for the love and grace that have saved us.

* Please stand, if you are able.

* SONGS OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE Praise Team

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Create in Me a Clean Heart

PRAYER OF ADORATION

GOD’S BLESSING ON OUR WORSHIP

God Speaks with a Heart of Love

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message *The Color Purple*

Prayer

(Children in Preschool through 5th Grade are dismissed for Sunday School.)

PRAYER FOR GOD’S SPIRIT TO MOVE AMONG US

EPISTLE LESSON *Romans 12:2* CEB

GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 4:1-11* CEB

SERMON *Total Surrender...To whom? To what?*

Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan

PRAYER OF RECOMMITMENT

God Shows Grace and Forgiveness

CALL TO CONFESSION

Seek the Lord while he may be found. Call upon him while our God is near; let the sinful, all of us, forsake our stubborn ways, and all of us, unrighteous, forsake our selfish thoughts. Let us return to the Lord so that we may receive mercy. Let us return to our God, and be granted abundant pardon.

Trusting ourselves to the grace of God, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Almighty God, full of grace, you despise nothing that you have made, and you are eager to forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create in us new and humble hearts that, truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive from you, the God of mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you now and forever. Amen.

GOD’S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS GRANTED (responsively)

Leader: By grace we have been saved through faith. And this is not our own doing, but it is a gift from God’s loving heart. This gift is made known to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

All: We give thanks with grateful hearts for God’s forgiveness, and now promise to change our ways and live in full surrender to the One who loves us and reigns from before time began until forever from now.

