

Celebration of Worship to Our God

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Celebration of the Gifts of Women, Young Women, and Girls Women Called to Lead and Serve with Love

March 11, 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.

Thought for Contemplation

“As women called to lead and serve with love, we must continue to demonstrate hospitality in the world and our communities, in our churches, and in our homes. We need to remember Leviticus 19:34: ‘The alien or immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love them as yourself...’ We need to practice radical hospitality, welcoming the most alienated in our communities. The strangers among us have names and stories and value. Welcoming them not just in our churches but in our lives can become a source of growth for us as individuals on our own journey of faith, make an impact in their lives, and serve Christ, by modeling his love. And as leaders we must listen with hearts and ears to hear and respond in worship, prayer, and boldness.”

Judy Record Fletcher, adapted

God Invites Us to Worship

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

Ciacona

Pachelbel

We Offer Praise

WORDS IN PREPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Leader: We gather to worship God, for God is good.

All: God’s steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: We gather to worship God, for God has called us, God’s own people, and has given us gifts to be a faithful people.

All: We remember that God’s steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Let us now offer worthy worship to God,

All: Whose steadfast love endures forever.

* Please stand, if you are able.

* SONG *Brethren, Sisters, We Have Met to Worship*

Insert

* PRAYER OF ADORATION

* GOD’S BLESSING ON OUR WORSHIP

God Shows Grace and Forgiveness

CALL TO CONFESSION

God has given us the ability to lead with love. God has promised to forgive us when we fail to do this. God extends loving and healing mercy to us always, even before we ask for it. Knowing and trusting this steadfast love that is ours in Jesus Christ, let us now confess our sins and offenses before God and each other.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Loving and merciful God, you have searched us and known us and still you love us. We confess that we take this love and mercy for granted; we are careless with our gifts and resources, and we refuse to focus on you and your will for all creation. You call us to lead with love, but we are reluctant leaders or we lead with only rules and efficiency in mind. Grant us, O God, caring hearts, attentive minds, and a renewed commitment to follow you and to help lead others to you. In the saving grace of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

GOD’S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS GRANTED

Leader: The psalmist reminds us that God wants to gather us in like a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings. Under the wings of God’s love, we can let go of sin and guilt. We can abide in the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. Friends, in Christ we are forgiven and loved.

All: Thanks be to God.

God Speaks with a Heart of Love

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message

Thank God!

We Celebrate the Gifts of Women, Young Women, and Girls

Prayer

(Children and Youth are dismissed for Sunday School.)

PRAYER FOR GOD’S SPIRIT TO MOVE AMONG US

Leader: Gracious God, as we prepare to hear your word to us, quiet other voices that would draw us away from attentive listening and faithful responding. Grant us new understanding and insights to help us follow you more faithfully. We pray in Jesus’ name.

All: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Numbers 21:4-9* p. 122
GOSPEL LESSON *John 3:14-21* CEB
SERMON *So Loved*

Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan

We Respond in Re-Dedication

MUSICAL RESPONSE *The Power of the Cross* arr. Hayes
Chancel Choir

O to see the dawn of the darkest day; Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood.

This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us.

Took the blame, bore the wrath; We stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees; Now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker
bows His head.

Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life; "Finished!" the victory cry.

This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us.

Took the blame, bore the wrath; We stand forgiven at the cross.

O to see my name written in the wounds, for through your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live, won through Your selfless love!

This the power of the cross: Son of God, slain for us.

What a love, what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.

PRAYER OF RECOMMITMENT

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Lonesome Valley* arr. Morris
Alleluia Bells; Rachel McKay – flute

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION, PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN *As Moses Raised the Serpent Up* Insert

God Sends Us Out to Serve

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE 4 MISSION Laureen Anthony Palmer

* GOD'S BLESSING AS WE GO OUT TO SERVE

* POSTLUDE *Capriccio* McChesney
Alleluia Bells

* PRAYER UNDER THE CROSS