



*Sunday Worship  
February 21, 2021  
Draw near to God  
for God is waiting for you.*

*PRELUDE*

*CALL TO WORSHIP* (If you have made a “cross” out of six candles, light all candles before beginning the service)

As darkness gives way to light and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,

**we come today to be reminded of God's love for us.**

Like the green shoots of renewed life, stirring beneath the soil,

**we welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.**

In this time of reflection and repentance,

**we affirm our identity, we claim our security, as children of God.**

*OPENING PRAYER*

**Creator, Sustainer and Savior, you lead us through the late winter wilderness of Lent. As we trudge through the stuff of our lives, show us, guide us, and remind us of your presence. Help us to see and praise you in, around and through our days. Connect us to you in our experience as we walk toward the cross. Amen.**

*HYMN #166* Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,  
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

2. As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,  
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.

3. As you did hunger and did thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and only live by your most holy word.

4. And through these days of penitence, And through your passion-tide,  
for evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

5. Abide with us that, when this life of suffering is past,  
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!

*LENTEN CROSS* – The Crown of Thorns (If you have created a “cross” out of six candles, extinguish one before using the following liturgy)

*Today we place the crown of thorns upon the cross. With a crown of thorns we mocked and marred the one who proclaimed a Kingdom we did not want. But today we also remember a redemption that came to us through suffering.*

**Lord Jesus, with a crown of thorns we mocked the Kingdom you proclaimed. With a crown of thorns we rejected you as our King. Help us say “No” to our private notions of how the Kingdom of God should look. Help us say “Yes” to the cross.**

*Throughout the centuries we have ascribed greatness to those who bring quick resolutions to our political conflicts. We want immediate results with little cost.*

**Lord Jesus, we confess we are often disappointed in the Kingdom you reveal. Your Kingdom reflects your patience with creation. Your Kingdom requires our participation. Help us say “No” to our craving for ease and luxury. Help us say “Yes” to the cross.**

*Our world honors kings who enforce peace by destroying their enemies. The King we crowned with thorns established peace by dying for his enemies---the righteous for the unrighteous, to reconcile us to God.*

**Lord Jesus, we still look for leaders to bring peace through power. To the mighty, the strong, and the beautiful we grant our places of honor. Help us say “No” to our dread of weakness. Help us say “Yes” to the cross.**

*Let us pray together...*

**Almighty God, we want kingdoms with great power. Your Son came in weakness. We want deliverance through conquest. Your Son brought deliverance through suffering. We want freedom from temptation. Your Son participates in our struggles. Free us from ourselves; deliver us from our evil; conform us to the image of your Son. Amen.**

*FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON* Genesis 9:8-17

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

*TIME WITH THE CHILDREN*

*HYMN #775* I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1. I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

3. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

*SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON* Mark 1:9-15

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

*SERMON* Angels in the Wilderness

*RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION*

**God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves. May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen**

*JOYS AND CONCERNS*

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

*HYMN #292* As the Wind Song

1. As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze, so it is with the Spirit of God, as the heart made strangely warm, as the voice within the storm, so it is with the Spirit of God. Never seen, ever known where the wind has blown bringing life, bringing power to the world, as the dancing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep desire, so it is with the Spirit of God

2. As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again, so it is with the Spirit of God, as the green in the spring, as the kite on a string, so it is with the Spirit of God, making world that are new, making peace come true, bringing gifts, bringing love to the world, as the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the feast, so it is with the Spirit of God.

*BENEDICTION*

*POSTLUDE*

**Sunday February 21, 2021 – ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY** - Join us today for Sunday school class for all ages at 11:30am on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>. For one half hour our children will be hearing stories, singing songs, engaging in activities and games about God and God's teachings.

**THURSDAY EVENING STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP:** Join us this Thursday evening February 25, 2021 at 7pm on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782. This week the group begins a new study on Caring for Others led by our seminary intern, Ryon Herin.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS MISSION PROJECT NEEDS YOUR HELP –** Tomorrow is the last day to drop off your donations for the confirmation class mission project. Supplies for homeless youth requested include the following: hand warmers, soap, towel, washcloth, snacks (homemade cookies, brownies, chips or granola bars), hand wipes, reusable water bottle, deodorant, portable phone charger (purchase at 5 and Below), adult size underwear (men's and women's), canned food with pop tops. In addition, if anyone has a sleeping bag or tent they are no longer using, these also can be donated. The class will be packing these supplies on Wednesday and then delivering them to the Synergy Project.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONALS:** Daily devotionals are still available at the church for anyone who would like one. If you need to have one sent to you, please contact Susan Flanagan in the church office.

**MISSION GATHERING TODAY:** Sunday February 21 (corrected date) – Cards for military. We will gather together today at 3:00 to make cards expressing our appreciation for the service of our military personnel working through “Hugs for Soldiers.”

**WEEKLY LENTEN COMMUNION SERVICES:** Beginning this Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> we will be gathering for a brief meditation, prayer, and share communion at 8:30am on Zoom  
<https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

**Calendar:** Feb. 22- Session Meeting on Zoom at 7:00 PM  
Feb. 24 – 6:00 PM Confirmation Class Mission Project at the church

**In our thoughts and prayers:** The Conner/Lang Family, Diane Dauer,  
Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Nancy Yerkes, Raymond Tinari, Dick Wright