



*Sunday Worship
February 28, 2021
Draw near to God
for God is waiting for you.*

(If you are using a Lenten Cross made of six candles, light all but one candle before beginning the service)

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

Lent calls us to journey with God.

Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of presence and power, be with us on this second step of our Lenten journey to the Cross. Help us to make a commitment of our lives, our spirits, our hearts to ministry in your name. Amen.

HYMN #49 The God of Abraham Praise

1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above; Ancient of everlasting days and God of love. Jehovah, great I Am, by earth and heaven confessed; I bow and bless the sacred name, forever blest.
2. The God of Abraham praise, at whose supreme command from earth I rise and seek the joys at his right hand. I all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame, and power; and him my only portion make, my shield and tower.
3. He by himself hath sworn, I on his oath depend, I shall, on eagle's wings upborne, to heaven ascend. I shall before his face, I shall his power adore, and sing the wonders of his grace forevermore.
4. The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high; "Hail Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" they ever cry. Hail, Abraham's God and mine! I join the heavenly lays; all might and majesty are Thine, and endless praise.

LENTEN CROSS CONFESSIOAL LITANY – The Nails (If you have created a “cross” out of six candles, extinguish a second one before using the following liturgy)

We lay before the cross today the nails with which we pierced the hands and feet of God's Son. Nails are usually used for construction. We used these nails, however, for destruction. They forever symbolize our attempt to destroy God's true temple.

Lord Jesus, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for our violent rejection of your truth. Help us say “No” to destroying one another. Help us say “Yes” to the cross.

The nail-scars on Christ’s hands and feet remind us of a Suffering Servant who brought redemption through his obedience unto death, even death on a cross. He let us fasten him to a cross, that we might never be separated from his love.

Lord Jesus, have mercy upon us. We cannot grasp your love that suffers for us. We often fail to love like that; we turn from the suffering of others. Help us say “No” to our self-centered nature. Help us say “Yes” to the cross.

With nails we implemented our condemnation of our Lord. They remind us of our bent to condemnation, our frequent inability to forgive ourselves and to extend forgiveness to others.

Lord Jesus, you have had mercy on us! There is now no condemnation, for you, our God, are for us. We cannot lose your love. Help us say “No” to our condemnation of others. Help us say “Yes” to the cross.

Let us pray together...

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Give us your grace in our self-centeredness. Help us take up our cross and spend ourselves on a life that cannot be taken away. We thank you that nothing can separate us from your love. Transform us by that love, we pray. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 8:31-38

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN #720

1. Jesus calls us: o’er the tumult of our life’s wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice soundeth saying, “Christian, follow me.”

2. As of old the Apostles heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus’ sake.

3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world’s golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying, “Christian love me more.”

4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these.”

5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 17:1-7, 15-17

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my

covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." ¹⁷Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

SERMON Faith for the Generations

RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Covenant-keeping God, whose promise is rock solid; we offer our lives and these signs of our daily living not simply that bread might fill empty stomachs, but that, through the working of your Holy Spirit, empty lives may be filled, friendless, lonely lives find intimacy, depressed lives given hope. In Jesus' name we pray. 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 #700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (2Xs)
2. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (2Xs)
3. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (2Xs)
4. I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (2Xs)
5. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (2Xs)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sunday February 28, 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, March 4, 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 our seminary intern Ryon Herin will guide us through "The Gifts of the Congregation"; Through the Holy Spirit and Scripture, we will journey together in exploring how to use each of our unique gifts in caring for each other and our wider community.

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.

WEEKLY LENTEN COMMUNION SERVICES: Wednesday March 3rd, we will be gathering for a half hour service including a meditation, prayer, and communion at 8:30am on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>. Please provide your own communion elements of bread and juice/wine.

Calendar:

March 3 – 7:00 PM Confirmation Class

March 4 - 7 PM Thursday evening Study and Fellowship

In our thoughts and prayers: Vanessa Conner, Diane Dauer, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Jim and Judy Ferguson, Nancy Yerkes, Raymond Tinari, Dick Wright