

Trinity Church Welcomes You

Third Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Pastor Priscilla Hukki

*Indicates standing as you are able.

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are pilgrims on the way to the cross.

We are learning to follow Jesus.

For those who feel Christ near,

May we not turn away from the discomfort of the journey ahead.

For those who feel as far from Christ as the desert is from the ocean,

May we find Christ in the wilderness with us.

For all of us who stumble and fall in our silence, indifference, and lack of generosity,

May we reach for the hand of Christ, who raises us up to continue on the journey.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts, August 2022.

OPENING HYMN *How Majestic Is Your Name* TFWS #2023

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise your name.

O Lord, we magnify your name:

Prince of Peace, mighty God;

O Lord God Almighty.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise your name.

O Lord, we magnify your name:

Prince of Peace, mighty God;

O Lord God Almighty.

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OPENING PRAYER

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

(UMH, p. 6)

FIRST READING

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

¹God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 19

(read responsively)

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

***GOSPEL READING**

John 2: 13-22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord

SERMON

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.

(Refrain)

3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.

(Refrain)

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.

(Refrain)

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***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we are without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 1:8-9)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you offer us so much,
forgive us for sharing so little.
You have called us to your ways,
forgive us for ignoring your call.
You have given us the gift of family,
forgive us for not giving thanks.
You have given us countless blessings,
forgive us for taking your love for granted.
And now, gracious God, be merciful to us
in our sin and indifference, through Christ,
our Savior. Amen.

*From Joel N. Martínez and Raquel M. Martínez, Fiesta Cristiana:
Recursos para la Adoración (Abingdon Press, 2003), 148.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's grace is amazing. God's love never-ending. God's forgiveness is given through the mercy of Jesus Christ who is our salvation. Your sins are forgiven. You are set free to love and serve +in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING

Please place all offerings in the plate by the entrance to the sanctuary.

***OFFERING** *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* UMH #133 v. 2 & refrain

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Lean - - - ing, (Leaning on Jesus,) lean - - - ing, (leaning on Jesus,) safe and secure from all alarms;
lean - - - ing, (leaning on Jesus,) lean - - - ing, (leaning on Jesus,) leaning on the everlasting arms.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought; bless thou the work our hearts have planned. Ours is the faith, the will, the thought; the rest, O God, is in thy hand. Amen.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Come to the table and receive the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation which is for all people. The Body & Blood of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (UMH p. 11)

*HYMN

The Old Rugged Cross

UMH #504 vs. 1 & 2

1 On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.

2 O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]

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BENEDICTION

As you go, May your hearts be open to hear God's call. May your hands be willing to serve Jesus where ever he may be found. Let your feet move to the music of the Spirit. Be overwhelmed by God's goodness and let your life be your praise, until we meet again. Amen.

Written by Carolyn W. Dandridge and Catrinia N. Harrison, The Africana Worship Book Year A, edited by Valerie Bridgeman Davis and Safiyah Fosua (Discipleship Resources, 2006), 198.

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