

Trinity Church Welcomes You

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 9, 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

Lift High the Cross

UMH #159 vs. 1-3

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine. [*Refrain*]
2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. [*Refrain*]
3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. [*Refrain*]

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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

Numbers 21: 4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22* (read responsively)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

³gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING *Ephesians 2: 1-10*

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

***GOSPEL READING**

John 3: 14-21

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Gospel of the Lord

SERMON

HYMN

Grace Alone

TFWS #2162

1. Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,
every difference we will make is only by his grace.

Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,
every blessing left behind is only by his grace.

Refrain

Grace alone which God supplies,
strength unknown he will provide.

Christ in us our Cornerstone;
we will go forth in grace alone.

2. Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach,
everywhere we share his peace, is only by his grace.

Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away,
every sorrow turned to praise is only by his grace. [*Refrain*]

***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

Give Thanks (2x)

TFWS #2036

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's
given Jesus Christ his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's
given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong";
let the poor say, "I am rich
because of what
the Lord has done for us."

And now let the weak say, "I am strong";
let the poor say, "I am rich
because of what
the Lord has done for us."

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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.*