

Worship Outline

Lent 2A

March 8, 2020

We Gather

Prelude

Jesus Guide Me
Bach

Introit

Holy Ground

+Call to Worship (responsive)

All are welcome here—

The young and old, those who have visions and those who dream dreams.

All are welcome here—

The sinner and saint, those who seek forgiveness and those who long for peace.

All are welcome here—

**The hurt and the doubting, those who know the wilderness
and those who feel lost.**

All are welcome here; for you are loved by God, and this is God's house.

Let us worship God. Amen.

+Hymn 301

Let Us Build a House

Unison Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin, praying together:

God, we give you our hearts.

They are brimming with doubt and are saturated with fear, but we give them to you anyway, for you promise to love us as we are.

You promise to walk with us to the ends

of the earth, so in this moment, we promise to tell the truth.
God, you ask us to be brave and bold, but we cower in fear.
You ask us to love our neighbors as ourselves,
but we hold tight to privilege and the status quo.
And you ask us to risk it all to follow you,
but we are content with the injustices at hand.
Forgive us for our sin and lift our eyes to you. Lift our eyes to the hills.
Gratefully we pray.

Silence is kept.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that he gave his beloved Son, that all who turn to Jesus in hope and expectation may be born anew of water and the Spirit. Receive this good news and know that today, you are offered new life in Christ. Thanks be to God!

Welcome and Peace

God has received us, pardoned us and loved us;
 let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ.
 Peace be with you.

And also with you.

+Gathering Song 437

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

Sharing the Story

Opening the Word with Young Disciples

Anthem

*With What Shall I Come?*Schram
Chancel Choir

Scripture Lesson

John 3: 1-17

Let us pray...Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these 40 days so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus[a] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” **3** Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”[b] **4** Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.[c] **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You[d] must be born from above.’[e] **8** The wind[f] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” **9** Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11 “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you[g] do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.[h] **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.[i]

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon
Kanerva

Rev. Liz Rolf

+Hymn 482

Baptized in Water

Prayers of the People

Lord our God, you neither slumber nor sleep.

You are our keeper, our shade in the heat of the world’s battles,
our light in every kind of darkness.

In all our comings and goings we are yours.

And so we thank you for your care which enriches all our living:

Thank you for the trust we have that those things we can do nothing about,
so many truly important things, are safe in your hands;

thank you for the freedom to focus on the small things we can do:

caring, loving, living ethically day by day;

and for time to anticipate your grace, to embrace your mystery, to pray during moments of joy and need.

Thank you that you fill our lives with meaning and hope.

Continue to send us your Spirit

to bless us with insight, wisdom, energy and passion to live for you day by day.

Attentive God, we bring our concerns for the world before you. In these moments of quiet we name the situations, people and hopes that are close to our hearts.

We pray for each person dear to us. Embrace them in their need and potential.

We pray for healing for those known to us and those known only to you.

We pray for our congregation, asking that your grace may surprise us and open us to your guidance.

We pray for situations where people face violence and hatred, and for families working through discord or hurt.

We pray for leaders, nationally and locally. Increase their integrity, kindness and cooperation so they lead us all to make renewed ethical choices.

And we pray for ourselves, for the responsibilities we bear, for the particular challenges we face, and for our own healing.

In the coming week, keep us faithful. Deepen our sense of trust in your guidance.

We gather all these prayers together, praying the words Jesus taught us...

Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Choral Prayer Response

Draw Nigh to God

Denton

Offering

Invitation

Our lives overflow with blessings and goodness, gifts which come from God. Out of the bounty of our lives, let us present to God our offerings with thankfulness and generosity.

Offertory

Jesus Paid It All

Broughton

+Congregational Response 710

*We lift our voices; we lift our hands;
we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices; Lord use our hands;
Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.*

*All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.*

*We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering; we are an offering.*

+Dedication

Generous and loving God, in gratitude for all that we have received in Christ and in creation, we offer you this portion of what we have to share. Take these gifts and bless them, and us, for the building up of your kingdom in the world you love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sending

+Hymn 292
Song

As the Wind

+Blessing and Benediction

The Spirit sends us not with certainties but with questions to provoke our journey of faith. What if who you are is enough? What if you, beloved, are cherished in your being and not only your doing? What if being brave for the whole also means being gentle towards yourself? God accompanies us with a love that upends forces of oppression, the ones that work from within and without. Let us go with faith, together. Amen.

+Congregational Benediction 612 (verse 3)

*With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!*

Postlude

Postlude in E Flat
Mygerson