

**FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Blessed Creator, from generation to generation, we bless your holy name, and marvel at the magnificent things that you have done. We offer you our gratitude and praise through today's worship, may it please you. We ask that your Holy Spirit intercede on our behalf, when we struggle to articulate how much you truly mean to us, and how grateful we are for this time together. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE

1 The God of Abraham praise, all praises to God's name,
who was and is and is to be, forever the same!
The one eternal God, before what now appears;
the First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!

2 God's spirit freely flows, high surging where it will;
God spoke of old in prophet's word; that word speaks still.
Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep written on the human heart, in every land.

3 God has eternal life implanted in the soul;
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
All praise the living God! Extol that hallowed name,
who was, and is, and ever shall be still the same!

4 The God of Sarah praise, all praises to God's name,
who was and is and is to be, forever the same!
The one eternal God, before what now appears;
the First, the Last; beyond all thought through timeless years!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: We who fear the marvels of creation

Unison: have come to praise the Creator.

Pastor: Our Creator does not hide from the hardship and suffering of our world.

Unison: In the midst of suffering, our Creator finds ways to satisfy the hungry and provide deliverance to the oppressed.

Pastor: From generation to generation,

Unison: we come to celebrate our Creator, who seeks goodness for all creation.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Creator God, Forgive us for the many ways we try to profit by the world's standards: seeking fame over pride, wealth over integrity, comfort over justice. Hold us to a higher standard where we weigh hope over fear, love over indifference, and divine things over human things. Have mercy on us, we ask. In Jesus's name, Amen.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Genesis 17:1 – 7, 15 – 16

New Testament: Mark 8:31 – 38

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC: *I CAN ONLY IMAGINE* – *MercyMe*

Darin Jellison

SERMON: *Promises, Promises II*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A LENTEN CREED*

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.

Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Loving parent, hoping against hope, we come to you in prayer, expecting that you will use our desires to call into existence things that do not yet exist in our world, but are plentiful in yours.

Unison: We dream of a just peace in places stricken by oppression and violence...

Pastor: We dream of loving-kindness among people afflicted by prejudice and hate...

Unison: We dream of abundant life in communities suffering from generational trauma...

Pastor: We dream of healing mercies in people living with devastating illness...

Pause for private intercessions

Pastor: We dream of your reign here on earth, as it is in heaven. And so, with our siblings and cousins in the faith, from generation to generation, we join in the prayer that Jesus taught...

Unison: Eternal Spirit,
Earth – maker, Pain – bearer, Life – giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the
World!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
Sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptations and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For your reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen**

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

**THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING
SPECIAL MUSIC: *I'M NOT ALONE*
PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Darin Jellison

Unison: May these gifts build on the legacy that we will leave for future generations. May ours be a legacy of justice, hope, faith and, most importantly, love. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *FAITH OF THE MARTYRS*

1 Faith of the martyrs, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
oh, how our hearts beat high with joy when we recall their faith's reward:

Refrain:

Faith of the martyrs, living faith! We would be true in life and death.

2 Martyrs confined in prisons bleak were still in heart and conscience free;
and no less blessed will be our fate if we, like them, live faithfully:

[Refrain]

3 Faith of the martyrs! We will love both friend and foe in peace or strife,
and sow the seeds of hope and faith by strengthening word and fearless life:

[Refrain]

4 Faith of the martyrs! Faith and prayer shall long outlive sin's tyranny;
and through the truth that comes from God all humankind shall then be free:

[Refrain]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Special thanks to Darin Jellison for sharing his special music with us,
to Matthew Wehr for filling in for Dennis Duda,
and to our "Streaming Team" for filming the service.*