

**FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 7, 2021**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

As we gather for worship this morning, may the words of our mouths, and the meditations of all our hearts, be acceptable to you, Our God, rock and redeemer. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: *ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME*

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1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide; my shelter be!
let the water and the blood,
from your wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
cleansing me from the guilt and power.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to you for dress;
helpless, look to you for grace;
stained, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

2 Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
you must save, and you alone.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
meet you at your judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide; my shelter be!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: The heavens are telling the glory of God,

Unison: we gather to proclaim God's handiwork.

Pastor: God's laws are perfect.

God's decrees are sure.

God's precepts are right.

God's commandments are clear.

God's ordinances are true.

God's awesomeness is pure.

Unison: We gather to worship God.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: Merciful God, the earth is telling of the sinfulness of our ways:

Unison: Our laws are imperfect; our decrees are doubtful; our percepts are subjective; our commandments are unclear; our ordinances are misguided.

Pastor: Although our intentions are pure, we are often more foolish than we are wise, more harmful than we are helpful.

Unison: Help us to pay attention to the moans of creation, and motivate us to change our ways so that we may live faithfully together. Amen.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Exodus 20:1 – 17

Psalter: Psalm 19

Gospel: John 2:13 – 22

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC: *TWENTY-FOUR* – Switchfoot

Darrin Jellison

SERMON: *Keeping Covenant*

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: We thank you, God, for you created stories that spark the imagination, laws that revive our souls, commandments that enlighten our hearts, and traditions that make us hunger and thirst for justice. We thank you

for the miracles in our daily lives that renew our spirits and remind us of your steadfast goodness:

(name people, things, and situations)

We thank you for Jesus of Nazareth, who loved you, your dream, and all your people fiercely. As Jesus wept for his friends, may we also weep with those who cry out in grief for those we name to you now:

(insert names and situations)

As Jesus protested the abuse of your laws, may we also question practices, customs and traditions that are not in line with your teachings and covenant. We thank you for this Lenten journey, may we never forget why we journey and what we are journeying towards.

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: *BEAUTIFUL* – MercyMe

Darin Jellison

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: **Gracious God, bless these, our gifts. May they be a beacon of light.
Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION

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1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of our God and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever,
and our confidence alone.

3 Here renew your servants' vision,
that by faith they may attain
peace and hop, renewed compassion,
strength to comfort those in pain
tears and grief transformed to gladness
in your everlasting reign.

2 To this temple, where we call you,
come, O God of hosts, today:
with your constant loving kindness
hear your people as they pray;
give your fullest benediction
grace to follow Christ the Way.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Welcome back Dennis!

*Special thanks to Darin Jellison for sharing his special music with us
and to our "Stream Team" for filming today's service.*

Blessings to All!