

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 21, 2021**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Loving Jesus, High Priest of our hearts, draw us close to you, so we may glorify you and proclaim your goodness, in all that we are, all that we do, and all that we say. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

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1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness;
I dare not trust this earthly frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When shadows veil my Savior's face, I rest upon unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

3 Christ's oath and covenant and blood support me in the rising flood;
when all around my soul gives way, Christ then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

4 When Christ shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in love be found,
dressed in God's righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: Come and seek God, with your whole heart:

Unison: **meditate on Christ's teachings, fix ourselves on the ways of Christ,
and delight in God's Holy word.**

Pastor: Come and worship God.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, remove our transgressions, smooth the paths that will lead us closer to you. For we know that the brokenness of the world is all around, separating us from you, creation, and each other. We are born into corruption. You desire all of creation to know the truth that we are one in our inward beings. Teach us this wisdom in our secret heart, so we can celebrate with gladness our reconciliation with you and your creation. Take away our

iniquity, and Create in us a pure heart, O God, and put a reconciling spirit within us. Do not cast us away from your creation, and do not take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore your wonderful creation and sustain your covenant with all Earth. Amen.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

John Barone, Lay Reader

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:31 – 34

Epistle: Hebrews 5:6 – 10

Gospel: John 12:20 - 33

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC: *I WANT THE TRUTH*

Darin Jellison

SERMON: *It's Nice to Have Someone on Our Side*

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 God, we pray for your church and its ministry around the world. We pray for your faithful followers, our siblings in Christ. We pray for this community of believers and for all the joys and sorrows we share with you silently or out loud. God, may the law of love written on our hearts become our song as we journey. A song with words that comfort when hardships on the road burden us, a tune that lingers leaving warm thoughts with those whom we meet on the way, and with

a rhythm that lilt, buoying our spirits and strengthening our resolve to see the journey through. You promised to write your law within us, so that no matter where we are, we will always know, deep in our hearts, you and your ways.

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: WARM WHITE LIGHT

Darin Jellison

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We wish to see the fruits of Jesus' ministry. We want to experience God's reign on Earth. The sharing of gifts is one way we can catch a glimpse of the reign of God. Loving God, open our hearts to a new world. A world where there is no longer least and greatest, rich and poor. A world where there is enough for all, and all treated as beloved children of God. Until that day comes, bless our small contributions of time, talent and treasures and may they work towards the building of your new world. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY*

1 In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

5 In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Special thanks to **John Barone** for reading our scriptures, to **Darin Jellison** for
sharing his musical talents with us this morning,
and to our **Stream Team** for filming today's service.*

God's Blessings to all!