

Worshiping God

March 27, 2022

“Cultivating and Letting Go” Our Worship Theme during Lent

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Lent

**We invite those who are able to stand*

+Childcare is provided for those 4 and under in room 124, Worship Boxes are available in the Narthex for older children.

Gathering Music

Candlelighting

Prelude *Softly and Tenderly* arr. Dan Forrest

Welcome to Worship Kim Miller
(Choir will sing *Through It All*)

*Call to Worship Jake Koger

God of this day, cultivate in us a spirit of worship -

Hearts that pray, ears that hear, eyes that see, minds that believe.

God of this space, cultivate in us a spirit of worship -

Letting go of distractions and fears, isolation, and doubt.

God of this day, cultivate in us a spirit of worship - for you are love, our new beginning, And we will always need that.

Let us worship Holy God. Amen.

*Hymn, 68 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;

Praise his name I'm fixed upon it - name of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise to thee an altar, hither by thy help I've come;

And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart, O, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

*Passing of the Peace Dan Koger

May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Gospel Reading (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32, Pew Bible pp. 797-798) Cydney Cavendar

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. 2 The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Jesus told them this parable:

(Continued on next page)

Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

"When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands."' So he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, 'Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.' Then the older son was furious and didn't want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, 'Look, I've served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you've never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.' Then his father said, 'Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.'"

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Extinguishing the Candles at the Cross

Kim Miller

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete. Today, we extinguish this candle to symbolize the growing awareness that we are incomplete and only find our completeness through Christ.

*Hymn

You Are My King (Amazing Love)

arr. Dan Galbraith

**I'm forgiven because You were forsaken,
I'm accepted You were condemned.
And I'm alive and well, and Your spirit is within me
because You died and rose again**

(2x)

(Continued on next page)

CHORUS:

**Amazing love! How can it be that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love! I know it's true, and it's my joy to honor You.
Amazing love! How can it be that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love! I know it's true, and it's my joy to honor You.
In all I do, I honor You.**

**I'm forgiven because You were forsaken,
I'm accepted You were condemned.
And I'm alive and well, and Your spirit is within me
because You died and rose again**

(CHORUS)

**You are my King! Jesus, You are my King!
You are my King! Jesus, You are my King!**

(CHORUS)

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|--------------------|---|------------|
| Morning Prayer | | Dan Koger |
| Anthem | <i>Like a River in My Soul</i> | Tim Oseik |
| Sermon | <i>Cultivating Reconciliation and Letting Go of Selfishness</i> | Kim Miller |
| Musical Reflection | | |

*Hymn of Response *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* arr. Dan Galbraith
God calls all to respond! Our church welcomes you to share a new desire to follow in the way of Jesus, to join our congregation as a member, or to share a renewed desire to follow in the way of Jesus.

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not.
As Thou has been Thou forever will be.**

CHORUS:

**Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness.
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand has provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.**

**I could not love Thee, so blind and unfeeling.
Covenant promises fell not to me.
Then without warning, desire, or deserving
I found my Treasure, my pleasure in Thee.**

(CHORUS)

**I have no merit to woo or delight Thee.
I have no wisdom or powers to employ.
Yet in Thy mercy, how pleasing Thou findest me.
This is Thy pleasure, that Thou art my joy.**

(CHORUS)

(Continued on next page)

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth.
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine and then thousand beside.**
(CHORUS)

Prayers for the Gifts We Give

Kim Miller

Thank you for giving faithfully to God through the ministries of our church!

Life of the Community

Kim Miller

*Doxology

(Sung to "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross")

HAMBURG

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above the Heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Sending and Blessing

Kim Miller

*Response

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

(Refrain Only)

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness.

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed Thy hand has provided.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Postlude

+Childcare for March 27: Mark and Deana Clinton

Flowers?