

LENT 1

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN 402: My Faith Looks Up To Thee

**1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!**

**2 May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!**

**3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

**4 When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and if we fall, raise us up again and restore us through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Congregation: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

**For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins.
Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

Congregation Sings (Hymn 106)

**Come to Cal-v'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall; Here
a pure and healing fountain flows to you, to me, to all,
in a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition, wounded, paralyzed, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; he that drinks shall thirst no more.**

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Congregation Sings (Hymn 106)

**He that drinks shall live forever; 'Tis a soul renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood, signed
when our Redeemer died, sealed when he was glorified.**

THE FIRST LESSON: Romans 8:31-39

31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution

or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE PSALM: Psalm 6

The psalmist invites us to join him in seeking God’s mercy in the confidence of faith.

Pastor: O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am faint; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are in agony.

Congregation: My soul is in anguish. How long, O LORD, how long?

Pastor: Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

Congregation: No one remembers you when he is dead.
Who praises you from the grave?

Pastor: Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping.

Congregation: The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:12-15

12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, 13 and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. 14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

HYMN 440: On Eagles’ Wings

**1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”**

**And he will raise you up on eagles’ wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

**2 Snares of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear;**

Under his wings your refuge, his faithfulness your shield.

**And he will raise you up on eagles’ wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

**3 For to his angels he’s given a command to guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,**

lest you dash your foot against a stone.

**And he will raise you up on eagles’ wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

OUR MEDITATION: Genesis 22:1-18

1 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. **2** Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.” **3** Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. **4** On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. **5** He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.” **6** Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, **7** Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” **8** Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. **10** Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. **11** But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. **12** “Do not lay a hand on the boy,”

he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” **13** Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. **14** So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.” **15** The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time **16** and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, **18** and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Abraham Is A Father To Me!

1 God tested Abraham. Defend God.

2 God tested Abraham. Support Abraham.

3 God tested Abraham. Evaluate the results.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy

Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

The offering will be received as you are ushered out after the service in the fellowship hall so that offering plates are not passed. The offering plate is located next to the bulletin table in the fellowship hall.

PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

HYMN 309 – Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

**1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
and drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Offered was he for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and himself the priest.**

**2 He that his saints in this world rules and shields
To all believers life eternal yields,
With heav'n-ly bread makes them that hunger whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.**

**3 Come forward, then, with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
Before your altar, Lord, your servants bow;
In this your feast of love be with us now.**

SILENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others.

LORD'S SUPPER CONSECRATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Our communion distribution practice will be quite different for the time being. We are using individually packaged communion cups and wafers, which you picked up with your bulletin in the fellowship hall. You will not be ushered forward to the communion rail. Instead, Pastor will consecrate and bless the reception of the body and blood of Christ from the altar area. Our communicants will open and receive the bread/body and wine/blood of Christ while remaining seated.

SILENT PRAYER

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send my out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

PRAYER

BLESSING

HYMN 318: Sent Forth by God's Blessing

**1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from his dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended; Oh, be now extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us; His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer his call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving, to God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ry-day life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing his children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us; with your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Hour follows our worship this morning.
In adult Bible hour we continue our study of Proverbs. Join us!
2. Confirmation meets on Monday, February 22nd, 3:30-5:00 pm.
3. Council meets this Tuesday, February 23rd, at 7:00 pm.
4. Midweek Lent services begin with Ash Wednesday, this Wednesday, February 24th, at 7:00 pm.
5. Online Bible Class Continues.

The Format:

I send out weekly study guides in a congregational email on Mondays. You have an opportunity to work through the study guides at home.

I post an online video in which I work through the weekly study guide on Wednesdays. This video is sent out as a congregational email, just like our weekly worship services.

This week, we continue our study of Peter's first epistle.

6. Thursday morning Bible class meets at 10:00 am. We are continuing our study of Deuteronomy. Join us!