

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
March 1, 2020
11:00 A.M.

Together in Christ, Reaching Beyond Our Doors.

GATHERING TO PRAISE

PRELUDE "Psalm 34" Herbert Howells

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GREETING OTHERS AS WE WOULD GREET CHRIST

This is God's house – a place of peace where we befriend one another in the name of Christ. Greet those around you as a sign of God's peace and Christ's friendship.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come today to prepare for the holiest of seasons.

**All: We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips;
we will travel through betrayal and death,
keeping the flame of hope lit deep in our hearts**

One: Jesus leads us through this Lent, and we will follow,
for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

**All: We mark these 40 days with anticipation,
we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk**

One: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes:
modeling humility and clarity and obedience for all of us.

**All: Hosanna! Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who brings to us the Reign of God.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" No. 278

A TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" (sung processional)

***Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear; things I would ask him to tell me if he were here: scenes by the
wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.***

(sung recessional)

***First let me hear how the children stood round his knee, and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me; words full
of kindness, deeds full of grace, all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.***

CONNECTING WITH GOD IN PRAYER

PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Let us enter the city with God today,
And sing hosannas to our king,
Let us turn our backs on the powers that grasp and control,
And open our hearts to the son of God riding on a donkey.
Let us join his parade,
Surrounded by outcasts and prostitutes, the blind and the leper.

Let us follow the one who brought freedom and peace,
And walk in solidarity with the abandoned and oppressed.

**ALL: Let us shout for joy at Christ's coming and join his disciples,
Welcoming the broken, healing the sick, dining with outcasts.
Let us touch and see as God draws near,
Riding in triumph towards the Cross.
Hear now our silent prayers, O Christ the King ...**

MOMENT OF SILENCE TO PRAY FOR OTHERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895

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. Amen.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"Deep Were His Wounds"

Timothy Shaw

Deep were his wounds, and red, on cruel Calvary, as on the cross he bled in bitter agony. But they whom sin has wounded sore find healing in the wounds he bore. He suffered shame and scorn and wretched, dire disgrace; forsaken and forlorn, he hung there in our place. But all who would from sin be free look to his cross for victory. His life, his all, he gave when he was crucified; our burdened souls to save, what fearful death he died! But each of us, though dead in sin, through Christ's eternal life may win. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 21: 1-11

(Common English Bible)

Leader: The Word of God. **All: For the People of God.** Leader: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*Entering the Passion of Jesus—Lenten Sermon Series:
"High Drama in Low Places"*

BRINGING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

(see below)

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Come forward as directed, where you will be given a piece of bread which you may dip in the cup (gluten-free bread is also available). Please let an usher know if you cannot come forward so the elements can be brought to you. **During this time you are invited to bring your offering forward to the plates available on the chancel.** Today our Stephen Ministers will be positioned in the back of the sanctuary to offer prayer with those so desiring, and to mark your hand with anointing balm if you would like.*

*DOXOLOGY

No. 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Creator God, we have tasted again of your goodness. Now let your Son be the center of our lives, where your Spirit binds us to you and to neighbor. Thank you for this circular wonder, where your giving prompts us to give back. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF SENDING FORTH "Christ Loves the Church" No. 590

*BLESSING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Sevenfold Amen" John Stainer

*POSTLUDE "If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee" J.S. Bach

*You are invited to remain seated for the postlude as part of your worship experience.
(If you choose to exit the sanctuary during the postlude, please do so quietly. Thank you.)*

*All who are comfortable standing are invited to stand.

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

When the parade is over, do we pick up our lives, brush them off, and live in the old way? Do we toss our palm branches aside, so we can grasp the seductions of the world? As we begin the journey through this holiest of seasons, let us speak the truth, as we confess to our God, praying together,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Ever constant God, mixing love and hope together, you pave the way to the kingdom, but we prefer to stub our toes on the potholed roads of temptation. You will touch the cup of grace to our parched lips, but we seem to hunger for the ashy taste of bitterness. You beg us to learn the songs of salvation, but we hum along with the shallow pursuit of shiny things in our lives.

Have mercy upon us, God who makes all things new. As we see you near, you bring healing for our brokenness, peace for our troubled lives, hope for our doubting minds. May we empty ourselves of everything which keeps us from following you, so we may receive these gifts, and more, from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Laying aside judgment, God offers us redemption; setting aside anger, God embraces us with love; letting go of grief, God pours out living water for us. This is the good news, my friends: God's steadfast love endures forever.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna!

**Blessed is the One who brings us
the kingdom of God! Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: May the God of hosannas be with you.

All: May the God of this holy Lent be with you.

One: Lift your broken hearts to our God,

All: who will fill them with hope in these days.

One: Remember to sing laments during this holy time,

All: we do so, that we may know the reason for glad songs of joy.

One: Morning by morning, creation's voices join in praising you,
God of every goodness.

The forests form a festal procession,
the heavens reflect your glory's light.

Though we were formed by you,
we looked around at everything sin and death had to offer,
and followed them through the world, thinking they could protect us.

You gave prophets the tongues of teachers,
to comfort our weariness and teach us the way back to you,
but we turned our back on them.

When judgment did not lead to redemption,
you sent Jesus to reach out in love, to bring us home to you. So with those who spread cloaks
before you,
and those who are sustained by your love,
we join our voices, singing,

All: Holy, holy, holy, God of enduring love.

From every part of creation come glad songs.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in humility and hope.

Hosanna in the highest!

One: Holy are you, Sustainer of the weary,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Love become human.

He emptied himself of glory,
to be filled with our broken hopes and hearts.

He chose the path of suffering love,
so that we could run through
the streets of the kingdom waving branches of joy.

He walked the sin-cold stones
into the tomb which could not hold him,
so we could join our voices together,
'Hosanna! Hosanna! He is risen!'
As we journey through Jerusalem and beyond,
as we struggle with death, loss, and grief
we would ponder that mystery we call faith:

All: In trust, Christ died.

In joy, Christ was raised to new life.

in hope, Christ will come again.

One: Here at the Table graced with creation's gifts,
we discover the world you intend.
Here where your love enlivens the bread and the cup
we are given more than enough of everything we need.
Sharing deeply in the Spirit, we can give hope its wings,
as it carries us to serve the broken all around us.
Strengthened by the grace with which you feed us,
we can join together to sustain the weary of the world.
And when the gates of joy
have been opened to us,
we will spend moment by moment,
every knee in creation bending,
singing our praises to you,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP