

First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

10 am

Prelude

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Ross Merryman

Welcome

Call to Worship (*responsively*)

Dear friends, during the season of Lent,
we are called to journey with Jesus toward His cross and resurrection,
to return to God and God's ways,
and to discover new life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Together we embark on this journey in faith--
imperfect though we are--
for our God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**The Lord is good to all,
and His compassion is over all that He has made.** (*Psalm 145:8-9*)

Opening Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

UMH#127

William Williams | John Hughes

Words & Music: Public Domain

Verse 1

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Verse 2

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.

Verse 3

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious and compassionate God,

You have loved us with a love beyond our understanding,
and Your greatness is unsearchable.
When we consider Your goodness,
we realize how far our own lives fall short.
We confess that we have strayed from Your ways.
We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and what we have left undone.
In this season of Lent, grant us the grace to return to You--
to die daily to sin and to rise daily to new life in Christ,
so that we might grow more and more in Your likeness and image.
We ask this in Christ's strong name. Amen.

All continue to pray in silence.

Assurance of Pardon

How much does God love us?
Enough to send God's own self,
not to condemn us, but to save us.
Not by our speaking or doing,
but by God's good and precious grace are we forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child
Soloist, Brandon Turner

Chancel Singers

arr. Ed Lojeski

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A Message for Young Disciples

Cara Norris

Proclamation and Response

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Gospel Reading

Luke 13:1-9

¹ Some who were present on that occasion told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices. ² He replied, "Do you think the suffering of these Galileans proves that they were more sinful than all the other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did. ⁴ What about those eighteen people who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think that they were more guilty of wrongdoing than everyone else who lives in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did."

⁶ Jesus told this parable: "A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ He said to his gardener, 'Look, I've come looking for fruit on

this fig tree for the past three years, and I've never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting the soil's nutrients?' ⁸The gardener responded, 'Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it and give it fertilizer. ⁹ Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Message

The Good & Beautiful God: God is Good

Pastor Jen Eschliman

Prayers of the People

Joys & Concerns

The 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. Amen.

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Closing Song

Good, Good Father

Anthony Brown | Pat Barrett

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Verse 1

I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like

But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night

You tell me that You're pleased and that I'm never alone

Chorus

You're a Good Good Father; It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are

And I'm loved by You; It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

Verse 2

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide

But I know we're all searching for answers only You provide
Because You know just what we need before we say a word

Chorus

Bridge

You are perfect in all of Your ways; You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

Verse 3

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak; Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still, as You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still into love love love

Chorus

Sending Forth

Announcements

Benediction

Postlude

Lord, I Know I Have Been Changed

arr. Larry Shackley

Ross Merryman