

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

10 am

Prelude

Solemn Prelude
Gordon Young

Adam O'Dell

Welcome

Call to Worship (*responsively*)

Today we gather in the presence of Jesus our Savior,
who loved us and gave himself for us;
who shows us that God's love is not like our human love,
fragile and intermittent, but strong and steadfast.

**We give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ,
who carries our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and redeems us from sin and death.**

Opening Hymn

I Stand Amazed in the Presence

UMH #371

(vv. 1-2, 4-5)

Charles H. Gabriel

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Verse 1

I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how he could love me, a sinner, condemned, unclean.

Refrain

How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful is my Savior's love for me!

Verse 2

For me it was in the garden he prayed: "Not my will, but thine."
He had no tears for his own griefs, but sweat-drops of blood for mine. **[Refrain]**

Verse 4

He took my sins and my sorrows, he made them his very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary, and suffered and died alone. **[Refrain]**

Verse 5

When with the ransomed in glory his face I at last shall see,
'Twill be my joy through the ages to sing of his love for me. **[Refrain]**

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious and loving God,

You sent your Son into the world not for the spiritually healthy,
but for those in need of a physician for their souls.

Yet time and again we have fallen into the trap of believing

that we must be perfect in order for You to love us.
Forgive us for being slow to trust in Your unconditional love.
Forgive us, too, for our faults and our failures,
and bring healing to our souls.
Draw us closer to You, and renew Your image in us,
so that we might love with the same marvelous love
that we have seen in Jesus.
We pray this in His holy name. Amen.

All continue to pray in silence.

Assurance of Pardon

A Message for Young Disciples

Cara Norris

Proclamation and Response

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Gospel Reading

Matthew 9:9-13

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Anthem

How Firm a Foundation

Chancel Singers

arr. Bradley Knight

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Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that

country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Message

The Good & Beautiful God: God Is Love

Pastor Jen Eschliman

Prayers of the People

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

How He Loves
John Mark McMillan

NSC Praise Band

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Verse 1

He is jealous for me, loves like a hurricane
I am a tree bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy
When all of a sudden I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory
I realize just how beautiful You are and how great Your affections are for me

Pre-Chorus

Oh how He loves us so, oh how He loves us, how He loves us so **(repeat)**

Verse 1

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

He loves us, oh how He loves us
Oh how He loves us, oh how He loves **(repeat)**

Verse 2

We are His portion and He is our prize
Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes
If grace is an ocean we're all sinking
So Heaven meets earth like an unforeseen kiss
And my heart turns violently inside of my chest
I don't have time to maintain these regrets
When I think about the way that

Chorus

Sending Forth

Announcements

Benediction

Postlude

Fanfare on Agincourt Hymn
(O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High)
~Charles Callahan

Adam O'Dell