

Service for February 21, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

L: Welcome this day to the beginning of a journey.

P: Where will this journey take us?

L: It will take you to the Cross of Christ and beyond.

P: How much time do we have to get ready?

L: The time is now at hand for this journey.

P: Help us to be ready for this, O Lord. AMEN.

Opening Prayer:

The season of Lent is here again and, as with so many times before, we find that we are not really ready for this journey of discipleship. So many things claim our lives and prevent us from being ready to take the steps in faith. As we look at our barrier of readiness, help us to remember that Christ is with us, every step of the way. We are not alone. Christ will help lift our hearts and spirits and direct our paths. Enable us, loving Savior, to take this journey of faith to new life with you. AMEN.

Hymn: Lord, Who Through At These Forty Days

Prayer of Confession:

To you, Sovereign, do we lift up our souls. We often find ourselves struggling with shame, and we are afraid. Often, we do not know what to believe. We shrink from rigorous pursuit of your ways. Forgive us our laziness; and make us to know your ways; teach us your paths. Lead us in truth and be mindful of your mercy toward us. Deliver us from the sins of our youth; may they not haunt us as we seek you, for your goodness' sake, O God. Hear our prayer in the name of Jesus, the One full of grace and truth. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Responsively Read Psalm 25:1-10

In you, LORD my God,

I put my trust.

²I trust in you;

do not let me be put to shame,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³No one who hopes in you

will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.

**⁴Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.**

**⁵Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.**

**⁶Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.**

**⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, LORD, are good.**

**⁸Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.**

**⁹He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.**

**¹⁰All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.**

Prayers of the People:

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

Hymn: **Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast**

The Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 3:18-22

The Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:9-15

Message

Hymn: O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

Offertory Prayer:

Righteous God, we mark these early days in the Lenten journey with reminders of your covenant with your people. In your judgement, you sent upon creation the great flood – yet you saved a faithful remnant. You followed with a covenant not to use the flood again. As we prepare to offer our gifts to you, we are reminded that we have been spared from judgment by the one, your son, our Savior, who took on our guilt and bore our judgement. May gratitude for his sacrifice move us to offer not only money, but our whole being. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Benediction:

Last Hymn: This Is My Father's World