



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

1st Sunday in Lent | February 21, 2021

PRELUDE

Love the Lord Your God

Randy Warner

Sue Anderson, Alberta Gisel, Wayne Tillman, Ken Curry, quartet singers

Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind.

Oh, love the Lord, your God, with all your strength, Oh, love the Lord, your God.

Love your neighbor, love your neighbor, love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no commandment that is greater than these; none greater than these.

TEXT: Mark 12:29-31 TUNE: Randy Warner Copyright © 2001

CALL TO WORSHIP

Charlie & Helen Odum, liturgists

*(All speak words in **boldface**.)*

As the time drew near, Jesus made up his mind to go to Jerusalem.

What will it take to walk that road together?

Let us pick up our crosses and follow Christ,

forward-focused, on a path lined with wisdom and love.

(based on Luke 9:51-62)

HYMN

God Who Sets Us on a Journey

BRADBURY

God who sets us on a journey to discover, dream and grow,

lead us as you led your people in the desert long ago;

journey inward, journey outward, stir the spirit, stretch the mind,

love for God and self and neighbor marks the way that Christ defined.

Exploration brings new insights, changes, choices we must face;

give us wisdom in deciding, mindful always of your grace;

should we stumble, lose our bearings, find it hard to know what's right,

we regain our true direction focused on the Jesus light.

TEXT: Joy Dine (1937-2001). TUNE: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1859, alt. P.D. © Revd Mervyn Dine. Reproduced with permission.

PRAYER OF PRAISE *(based on Psalm 25 & Luke 10:27)*

God of our lenten journey,
extending wisdom and love to all,
we praise you.

You are honest and merciful, patient and kind.
Your paths are loving and faithful:

**to love you with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength;
and love our neighbor as ourself.**

We thank you for your saving grace

offering the humble: mercy, forgiveness, and freedom;

your wise instruction

**showing people of the covenant your paths
and how to stay the course;**

your fair-minded decrees


breaking old ways of caste and station, shame and hate.

We thank you for the cross and tomb and heaven **that are the way of love.**

Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

There are many temptations we face in our lives together. We face the temptation of putting our wants above another's needs. We face the temptation of ignoring problems such as hunger, poverty, war, and disease, with the false hope that they will go away without our involvement. We face many temptations to stray from the ways of our faith. What are the temptations you face, right now?

As we light the first candle, reflect on the temptations chasing after you. 

Let us pray,

Light of the World, show us the way of love. Forgive us and free us from our temptations. Turn us—heart, mind, soul, and strength—back to you; that we may love our neighbor as we love ourself; Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen. (adapted from Rev-o-lution Resources by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell <http://rev-o-lution.org>, © 2020. Used by permission.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God is not a stony judge, but the finder of sheep and the lover of all who are lost. In Christ's name, we are forgiven and encouraged to begin again.

Thanks be to God. Let it be. Amen.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Hear the Good News of Salvation

NETTLETON

Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.

Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.

Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!

How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

TEXT: Native American (Dakota); John B. Renville, 1879; trans. Emma Tibbets, 1955; vers. Jane Parker Huber, 1989. TUNE: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813 English Trans. Metrical Version © 1989 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press) Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-732613

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:25-42

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 5:7-8

Your Steadfast Love Shall Welcome All

CANONBURY

Your steadfast love shall welcome all who seek your house and on you call.

O lead us, Lord, in righteousness, as through this day your name we bless.

From *The Psalter for Christian Worship* © 2010 Michael Morgan. Used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press.

SERMON

“Like a Good Neighbor”

Rev. Laura Viau

PRACTICES OF LOVE: GIVE LOCALLY

SPC Scholarship, Erskine Blunt, Project Chair

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD *(based on Ps. 103)*

HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;

wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;

stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.

Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;

all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?

I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.

O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

TEXT: George Croly, 1867, P.D. TUNE: Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870 P.D.

BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

CLOSING RESPONSE
SPC Handbell Ringers

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

WALK WITH ME

Rev. Laura Viau, Interim Pastor (laurabviau@gmail.com)

Randy Warner, Liturgy and Music Associate and Accompanist;
Kathy Sasso, Church Secretary; **Linda Rowell**, Church Treasurer;
Joyce Winkler, Qualified Ruling Elder; **Crystal Braxton**, Nursery;
Hery Ramambasoa, Regional Liaison for Southeast Asia and the Pacific



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PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL. ☺