



# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

2nd Sunday in Lent | February 28, 2021

## PRELUDE

*Hymn of Mercy*

Dan Forrest/Eileen Berry

Vicki Chadwick, Laura Viau, Wayne Tillman, Ken Curry, quartet singers

Gracious Lord, Thy mercy filleth all the earth below; And from heaven's throne it falleth when to Thee I go. Mercy flowing, swift pursuing like a river strong, Sympathizing with my weakness; Mercy suffering long. Mercy calling with compassion, "Oh return to Me!" Wounded are the Hands extended, loving is the plea. How can I refuse Thy mercy? Whither would I flee? From my idol shrine, I turn, Lord, reaching up to Thee!

Tender mercy of the Savior gently drawing nigh with the blood that cleanseth sinners ready to apply. Gracious Lord, Thy mercy filleth all the earth below; And from heaven's throne it falleth when to Thee I go.

TEXT: Eileen Berry TUNE: Dan Forrest Copyright © 2006 Beckenhorst Press, inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-732613

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*(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

*Just as I Am, without One Plea*

WOODWORTH

*Just as I am, without one plea*

*but that thy blood was shed for me,*

*and that thou biddest me come to thee,*

***O Lamb of God, I come; I come!***

TEXT: Joy Dine (1937-2001). TUNE: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1859, alt. P.D.

## 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.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

*Just as I Am, without One Plea*

WOODWORTH

***Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Vicki Chadwick, liturgist

On our Lenten journey, we are reminded that at times we need to stop focusing on ourselves and look to the needs of others. Sometimes its inconvenient; other times, it could be dangerous. We may ask ourselves who is worth our aid, or even our compassion. Our courage is tested, our judgment can flare when strangers ask for help, especially when their own struggles make us uncomfortable. What holds you back from helping others? As we light the second candle, reflect on what can hold you back. 

Let us pray,

**Light of the World, show us the way of love.**

**Forgive us for our fear. Free us from our fear.**

**Turn us—heart, mind, soul, and strength—back to you;**

**that we may love our neighbor as we love ourselves;**

**through 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 TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS      *Just as I Am, without One Plea*      WOODWORTH

***Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!***

TEXT: Charlotte Elliot, 1834, alt. P.D. TUNE: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1849 P.D.

SCRIPTURE READING      Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 122:3-9      *Jerusalem!*      MUNICH

***Jerusalem, the city where tribes are joined as one,  
where God's elect find justice, where righteousness is done;  
and I, a child of David and heir to God's decree,  
shall take the place in glory that God prepares for me.  
Jerusalem, God's city, may peace dwell in your walls;  
and those who love you prosper, whatever else befalls;  
within your vaulted towers, secure I take my rest;  
at peace with God's assurance, and with God's favor blessed.***

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

SERMON      "Recalculating"      Rev. Laura Viau

## PRACTICES OF LOVE: WALK FAITHFULLY

*[Directions to help you with your prayer time are found just inside the Fellowship Hall. If you walk through life with a walker or wheelchair, there is plenty of space to use them. Please call the church before your come at (910) 754-6929.]*

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

[You are invited to join this prayer by singing when you are comfortable and by praying using a word shown (or underlined) after singing the verse.]

*There Is a Longing in Our Hearts*



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for



you to re - veal your - self to us.



There is a long-ing in our hearts for love we



on - ly find in you, our God.

() (hold last time) *Fine*



1 For	<u>jus - tice,</u>	for	<u>free - dom,</u>	for	<u>mer - cy:</u>
2 For	<u>wis - dom,</u>	for	<u>cour - age,</u>	for	<u>com - fort:</u>
3 For	<u>heal - ing,</u>	for	<u>whole-ness,</u>	for	<u>new life:</u>
4 Lord	<u>save us,</u>	take	<u>pit - y,</u>	<u>Light</u>	in our



hear our prayer.	In	<u>sor - row,</u>	in	<u>grief:</u>
hear our prayer.	In	<u>weak - ness,</u>	in	<u>fear:</u>
hear our prayer.	In	<u>sick - ness,</u>	in	<u>death:</u>
dark - ness.	We	<u>call you;</u>	we	<u>wait:</u>



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

CLOSING RESPONSE

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

arr. by Cathy Moglebust

SPC Handbell Ringers

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**Rev. Laura Viau, Interim Pastor ([laurabviau@gmail.com](mailto: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. ☺