



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

5th Sunday in Lent | March 21, 2021

PRELUDE *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram
Sue Anderson, Alberta Gisel, Wayne Tillman, Ken Curry, quartet singers

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly, While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high. Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past; safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last. Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son, thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown. Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin; let the healing streams abound, make me and keep me pure within. Thou of life the fountain art, freely, let me take of thee; Spring thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity. Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forever more be thine.

TEXTS and TUNES P.D.

CALL TO WORSHIP Jack & Bonnie Treadway, 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 *Great God of Every Blessing* AURELIA

***Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.***

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.

HYMN

Great God of Every Blessing

(v. 2)

Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,

in death and life extending your covenant embrace.

In Christ we are one body; each member has a part;

sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People will lie to you. They will try to cheat you out of your money. They will gain your trust and then hurt you. It's a risk to love our neighbor. It's a risk to keep loving others despite knowing we will be hurt when we love. However, Jesus calls us to love, and to take the risk. Not to be walked all over, but to sometimes offer "the benefit of the doubt." Sometimes we risk being hurt in order to love, for Jesus risked, and gave his own life, for us. As we light the fifth candle, reflect on where you need to let your guard down, so you can let God in. 🕯

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

Great God of Every Blessing

(v. 3)

***Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.***

***For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.***

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009 TUNE: Hassler, Hans Leo (1564-1612) P.D. Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 18:31-19:10

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 84:1-4, 10-12

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

HANKEY

***In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day
is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord
than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.***

***How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.***

***A sun and shield forever are you, O Lord Most High;
you shower us with blessings; no good will you deny.***

***The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.***

***How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.***

TEXT: Arlo D. Duba, 1984 TUNE: William G. Fischer, 1869 P.D. Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

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SERMON

"The View"

Rev. Laura Viau

PRACTICES OF LOVE: PROCLAIM JOYFULLY

Let us affirm our faith.

He is among us:
the one who gave sight to the blind
and insight to the closed-minded;
the one who gave hearing to the deaf
and listening ears to those
who heard only their own voices.
The one who made the lame walk
and is the way, the truth, and the life.

He is among us:
the one who healed the sick
and helped the hopeless;
the one who exorcised demons
and gave new names to those
who were known only for the problems,
the one who was criticized
for coming too close
to the contaminated.

He is among us:
the one who agreed with fair taxation
and handled money;
the one who spoke for the poor
and who spoke to the privileged
of the good things their wealth could do,
the one who entrusted himself to women
as much as men,
without prejudice or favor.

He is among us, to touch, to heal,
to bless, to inspire, to confront, to convert,
to show at all times the human face of God.
He is among us.

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors' and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power; and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Outcasts are welcome; sinners are, too,
eating with Jesus and being made new:
some like Zacchaeus turned right around;
wounded and poor ones felt peace profound.
God of great love, you stand at the door,
welcoming people outcast and poor.
So you forgive and call us to be
filled with the joy of your jubilee.***

***So may we welcome into our pew
all who in Jesus are being made new —
all those who seek him, wanting to know,
wanting to love him, wanting to grow.
Welcoming God, you stand at our door,
as someone different, outcast or poor.
With longing eyes, Lord Jesus, you search.
May we all welcome you in your church.***

TEXT: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette 1998. Tune: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873 ("Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!") TUNE: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873 P.D.
Copied from *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000).

BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

CLOSING RESPONSE

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

arr. by Cathy Moglebust

SPC Handbell Ringers

We are grateful for the flowers given by the whole **Spoon family** in loving memory of **Steve Spoon**.



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PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL. ☺