

A Service for Worship
 1st Sunday of Lent ~ February 21, 2021
 Promises, Promises!



Preparation for worship:

When God saw the devastation of the earth caused by the flood, God declared, “Never again!” God put a brilliant rainbow in the sky. It is God’s promise, a sign of constant hope and a mark of everlasting beauty. It is the truth that light outshines the darkness. Promises, promises! God promises never again to destroy. God will never abandon us. God will always forgive and give us new days of restoration.

Prayer:

Holy God, to be honest, sometimes I am afraid of the Old Testament version of you. I hear stories of anger and vengeance and power. I heard that you are “jealous,” and that I should “fear” you. Maybe one day people did believe that about you, but Jesus showed us that you forgive. And when I look deeply into these old stories, I see that you are and always have been a God of mercy, love, and grace. May I remember this every time I look to the skies and see a rainbow of hope. Amen.

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Greetings

Chimes of the Trinity

Gathering Music

“A Closer Walk - a Meditative Journey”
 “As the Wind Song”

Welcome and Invitation to Worship

We worship God, who made a way through the desert of our world.

We worship God, who caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

We worship God, who breaks through the clouds of our doubts and fears,
 and sends a rainbow.

God of lightness, God of colorful signs, God of promises kept and forgiveness bestowed:
 Come to us with fresh hope and abundant life.

Hymn of Praise

“How Great Thou Art”

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
 consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
 I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
 thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: *Refrain*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin: *Refrain*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *Refrain*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

adapted from Psalm 51

Holy God, we confess that our lives are broken by our sin.

We know that the mark of that sin is borne by our brothers and sisters.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Time for silent prayer.

Turn again, O God and give us life that your people may rejoice in you.

Make me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me.

Give us again the joy of your help, and with your spirit of freedom sustain us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Psalter Reading

Psalm 25:1-10

Sung Psalm

"To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul"

*refrain: To you, O God, I lift up my soul; lift up my spirit to my Lord.
To you I lift up my soul. (repeat)*

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

Sermon

"Promises, Promises"

New Testament Reading

I Peter 3:18

*For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous
for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Song of Response

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Prayers of the People and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

Closing Song

“God of the Sparrow”

God of the sparrow
 God of the whale
 God of the swirling stars
 How does the creature say Awe
 How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake
 God of the storm
 God of the trumpet blast
 How does the creature cry Woe
 How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow
 God of the cross
 God of the empty grave
 How does the creature say Grace
 How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry
 God of the sick
 God of the prodigal
 How does the creature say Care
 How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor
 God of the foe
 God of the pruning hook
 How does the creature say Love
 How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages
 God near at hand
 God of the loving heart
 How do your children say Joy
 How do your children say Home

Blessing

Sharing the peace of Christ

+ + +

Worship Leaders are:

Ann Jahnes, Pastor

Joanna Hipp, Associate Pastor

Laurie Russ, Director of Music

Lucy Hedblom, John Lehman, Courtney Russ, Charmaine VanWinkle, Musicians

Ginger Hedblom, Artist

Jude Skowron, Liturgist

Steve Coffman, Dennis Falkenstein, David Gauck and Erik Hedblom, Technical Assistants

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“As the Wind Song”

Shirley Erena Murray, text

Swee Hong Lim, music

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“How Great Thou Art”

Stuart K. Hine, text and music setting

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“To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul”

Bob Hurd, text and music

Dominic McAller, setting

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“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Craig Courtney, setting

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“God of the Sparrow”

Jaroslav J. Vajda, text

Carl F. Schalk, music

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