FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 27, 2022
11:00 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"what is the word beyond. home.
after home.
where is it. this word.
why can i not remember how to say this
thing. this feeling that is my whole body."
–Nayyirah Waheed

"Forgiveness breaks the chain of causality because he who forgives you—out of love—takes upon himself the consequences of what *you* have done. Forgiveness, therefore, always entails a sacrifice.

The price you must pay for your own liberation through another's sacrifice is that you in turn must be willing to liberate in the same way, irrespective of the consequences to yourself."

Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Easter, 1960

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE — Steven Phillips

PRELUDE — *Sacred Silence* (The Handbell Choir) — Karissa Dennis

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** — Deuteronomy 30:11-14, George Chorba

God speaks through the prophet, saying:
"Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today
is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away."

It is not in heaven, that we should say,
"Who will go up to heaven for us,
and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?"

Neither is it beyond the sea, that we should say,
"Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us,
and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?"

No, the word is very near to us;
it is in our mouths and in our hearts for us to observe.

** Those who are able are invited to stand.*

***HYMN 821** *My Life Flows On* How Can I Keep from Singing

My life flows on in endless song,
Above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.

Refrain:
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? **(Refrain)**

What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. **(Refrain)**

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? **(Refrain)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *- adapted from liturgy of the Reformed Church in America*
Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Endlessly merciful God,
your embrace is wider than our wanderings
and deeper than our estrangements.
Receive, again, your broken and bewildered people.
Forgive
our folly and our excess,
our indifference to human sorrow,
the way resentment simmers in our hearts.
In holy love,
meet us where we are,
call us your own,
and knit us to each other,
until every lost or lonely one knows the joy of home.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***SONG OF JOY 619** *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
Glad of heart your carols raise;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days.

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

ANTHEM *Psalm 121* John Ness Beck
(The Chancel Choir)

I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord shall shade thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from evil; he shall preserve thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in
From this time forth, and even for evermore.

I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS Luke 15:1-3,11b-32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

SERMON Margaret LaMotte Torrence

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** From Confession of 1967
George Chorba

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world
as God's reconciling community.
This community, the church universal,
is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation
and shares God's labor of healing the enmities
which separate people from God and from each other.
Christ has called the church to this mission
and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.
The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel
by faithful obedience to his call.

***HYMN 803** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Resignation

My shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
When I forsake his ways,
And leads me, for his mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace. ***(CONTINUED ON LAST PAGE)***

When I walk through the shades of death
Your presence is my stay;
One word of your supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
Does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows;
Your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger, or a guest,
But like a child at home.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Susan McDonald

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.

***HYMN 774** *There Is Now a New Creation* Stuttgart

There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ,
Peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.

Call the lost and found together; tell the news to everyone:
Now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun.

Wrap the prodigal in welcome; run to greet the wayward child.
All is finished and forgiven; let us now be reconciled.

Come and join the celebration; come and join this happy feast;
Jesus makes an invitation to the greatest and the least.

There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ.
Sing, with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!

***BENEDICTION** Margaret LaMotte Torrence

POSTLUDE *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* arr. Derek Hakes
(The Handbell Choir)