



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, March 5, 2023)

Second Sunday in Lent

**BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION**

Prelude: THE GIFT OF LOVE English folk; arr. H. Hopson  
*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.*  
Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Erika Rissi, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in our responsive Call to Worship:

God of rainbow and promise,

**God of the swirling waters of baptism,**

God of the dark night of doubt,

**God of comfort and call,**

Dwell with us as we journey through the season of Lent.

**And lead us from temptation to trust,**

**from fear to love,**

**from despair to hope,**

**from sadness to joy.**

**Hymn:#366** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" vs. 1,3,4  
Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Passing of the Peace  
May the Peace of Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Pastoral Prayer

Time with Children

**Prayer for Illumination** (Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the  
prayer for Illumination:

**We welcome you, Holy Spirit, giver of life; breathe into us that we may hear a  
word of truth this day. Draw us into communion, enable us to love, conspire to  
make us one with you for the sake of the world you so deeply love. Amen.**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

<sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.'

<sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above."

<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

<sup>11</sup> 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.'

<sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?'

<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.'

<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon*

Cosmic Love

Rev. Michelle Fincher

## Hymn #634

## "To God Be the Glory"

To God be the glory; great things He has done! So loved he the world that He gave us His son,

Who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

### REFRAIN:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

And give him the glory, great things he has done!

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

But purer and higher and greater will be Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (REFRAIN)

### Call to Offering

(Liturgist)

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that all may have eternal life in him. Let us respond to God's love by being generous and loving towards our neighbors. Let us bring our offerings with joy to God. Please pray with me our prayer of dedication

### Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—for your call on our lives, your guidance in our baptismal journeys, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

### Call to Confession

(Pastor)

Trusting in the One who gives life abundantly and eternally, let us approach the throne of grace and there, pour out our confession before the Lord. Let us pray...

## Prayer of Confession

**Holy One, we need your mercy. We acknowledge the sins we abhor and confess the sins we enjoy. We admit the sins that others know and confess the sins kept hidden within. We own up to sins of individualism that disregard community as well as of conforming to society's attitudes. We repent of the sins we've committed against others as well as those against ourselves. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the cosmos you love.**

## Silent Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

Friends, God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world, through him, might be saved. Believe the good news:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.**

## Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .**

(Sanctus)

**Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!**

**My heart knows how to say to you: you are holy, Lord!**

## 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Communion of the People

Communion Music        "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to him belong; They are weak, but he is strong.

REFRAIN: Yes, Jesus loves me; Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me this I know, as he loved so long ago.  
Taking children on his knee, saying "Let them come to me." (Refrain)

Jesus loves me still today, Walking with me on my way,  
Wanting as a friend to give, Light and life to all who live. (Refrain)

Prayer After Communion

**Hymn #441**                "Hear the Good News of Salvation"

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.

All the sins I have committed, to my Savior now I bring.  
I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing:  
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.

Benediction

Postlude:        O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING        Glaser/Birchwood  
O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, Director of Music, Rachel Jelsma, Trumpet; Barbara Allen & Ilse Kolpotek, communion preparers, Erika Rissi, liturgist and Jonathan Jelsma, technology team