

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise**, **welcome,** and **serve**:
· to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
· to **praise** God in all things,
· to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
· to **serve** the needs of one another and of those
on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Pastor Elaine Hewes, preaching
Connie Mayo, Music Director

Morning Prayer
Third Sunday in Lent
March 7, 2021

Prelude: *Ich ruf zu dir* J. S. Bach

A brief silence

Leader: Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. *Joel 2:13*

Confession of Sin

Leader: God begs us to turn from those words, those acts, those obstacles which keep us from being God's people. I invite you to join me as we bring our brokenness to God, who desires to make us whole:

Congregation:
Merciful God,
for too long we travelled our own ways,
for too long have sought to satisfy our hidden desires.
We have trusted the falsehoods of the world,
and relied on that power which would consume our souls.
We have sought healing from impostors,
and rejected the one who was broken for our wholeness.
Have mercy on us, God, whose love overflows our deepest hopes.

Let our hearts be a sanctuary for your spirit;
Let our lives abound in service to others;
let our spirits reflect the one we call our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Silence

Leader: God seeks to pour a new spirit into us: the spirit of hope and joy.
Congregation: **We turn to the one who delivers us from our sins.**
We praise God with cleansed hearts. Amen.

Opening Hymn 328 ELW *Restore in Us, O God (in back of bulletin)*

The Invitatory

Leader: Our God is full of compassion and mercy:
Congregation: **O come, let us worship.**
Leader: Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
Congregation: **as it was in the beginning, is now,**
and shall be for ever. Amen.

First Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes.

The word of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned; he who keeps them has great reward.
But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Gospel: John 2:13-22

Leader: The Gospel according to John
Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon Pastor Elaine Hewes

A brief silence

A Creed from the Iona Community

We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all
and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.

Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust;
and, in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others,
to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth
and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,
to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love,
and in the company of the faithful so to be the church, for the glory of God. Amen.

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be always with you,
Congregation: **And also with you.**

You are invited to exchange the peace

The Prayers

Leader: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day
Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray that we seek to turn your way, O God. May our Lenten observances bring renewal of spirit and clarity of vision in our service of the Gospel. We pray to the Lord.
Renew our Hearts, O Lord.

Let us pray for political leaders, religious leaders and people of faith everywhere that their efforts and ours to foster global peace and justice be rooted in a change of heart that turns away from violence and seeks the good of the poor, powerless, and defenseless of our world.
Renew our Hearts, O Lord.

Let us pray for all who suffer due to a lack of justice in our world. May they find hope and comfort in Christians' increased actions to improve the common good in this Lenten season.
Renew our Hearts, O Lord.

Let us pray for ourselves, that we might be strengthened to look past the doubts and fears which tempt us to abandon our Lenten efforts to live justly as God's people. We pray to the Lord.
Renew our Hearts, O Lord.

Please offer your own prayers at this time

All are invited to add their own prayers here.

Congregation: **Merciful God, You created us from the dust of the earth,**
and breathed your own life into our very being.
You recreated us in Christ through the waters of Baptism,
that we might share as a people your fullness of life.
During these forty days,
may our fasting strengthen us to seek your justice,
may our prayer lead us to become makers of peace,
and may our sharing quicken the seeds of your Rule,
present in all human hearts, and growing in mystery,
as we await with joyful anticipation, the resurrection of Jesus your Son.
We make this prayer to you in his name. Amen.

Benediction

Sending Hymn *Your Kingdom Come, O Lord (in back of bulletin)*

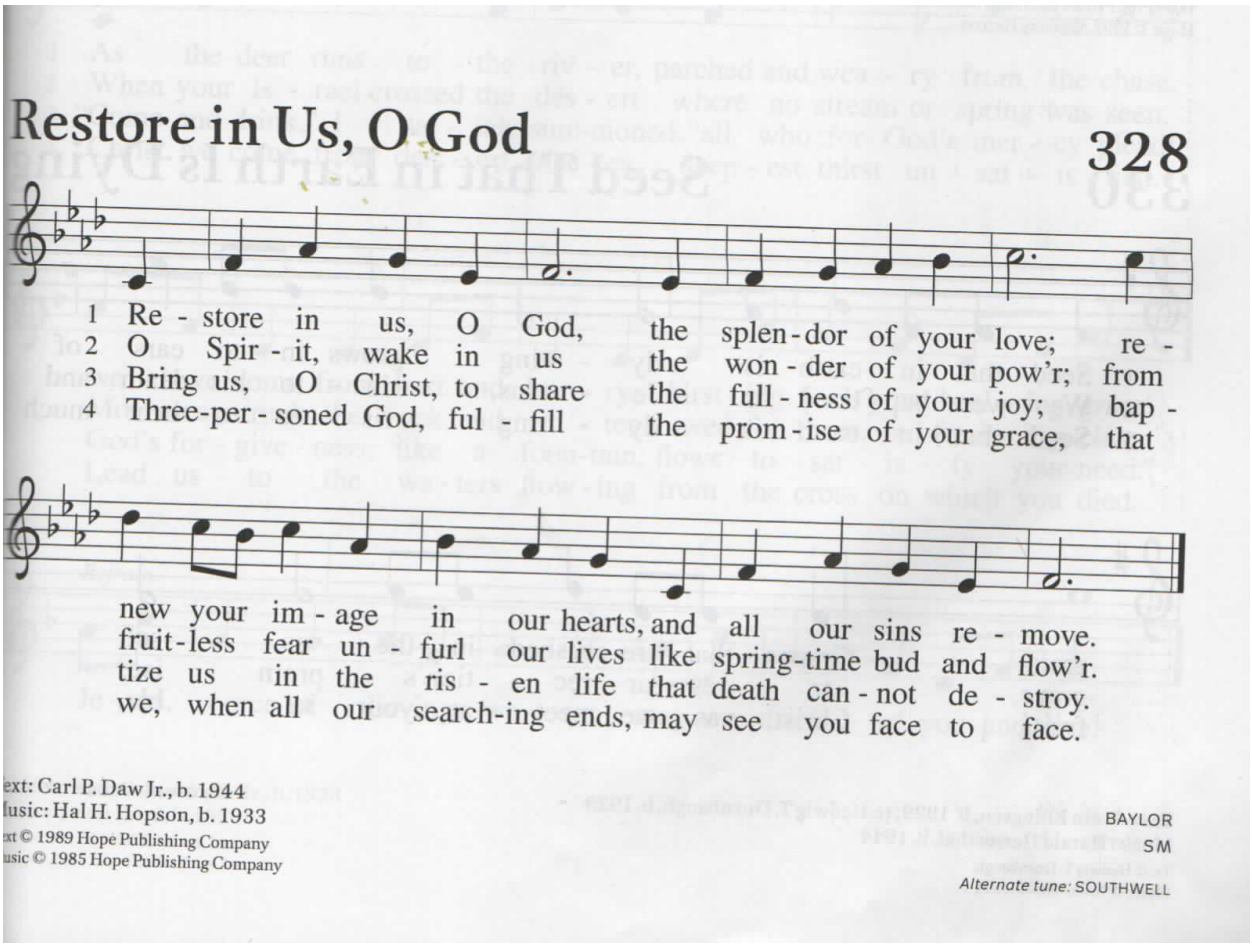
Postlude: *Arietta* Edvard Grieg

Dismissal

Announcements

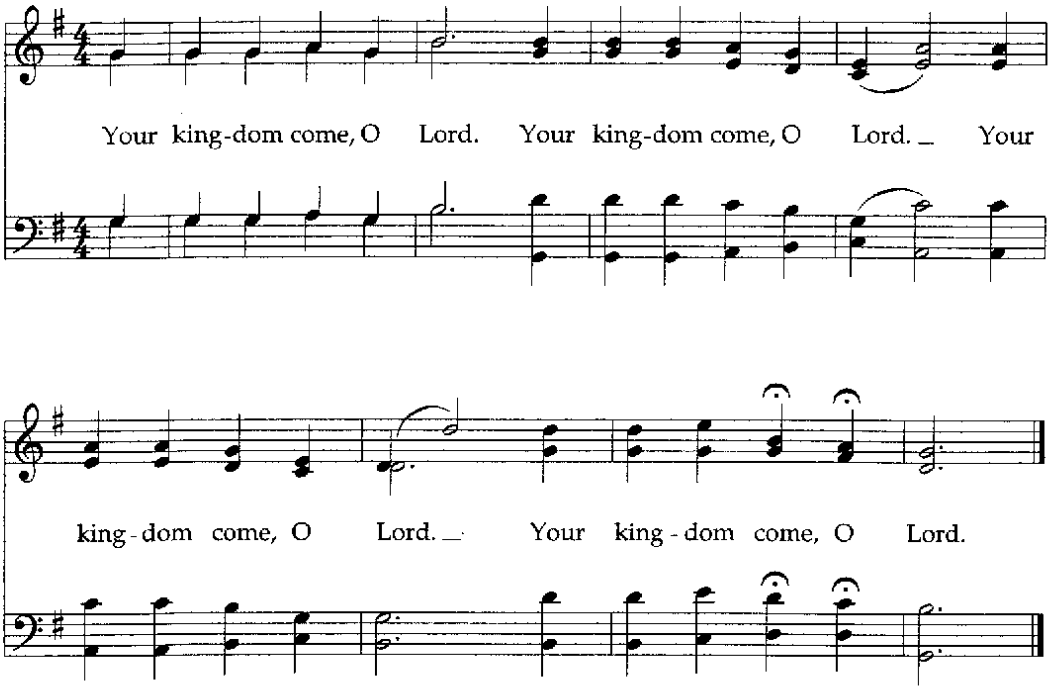
You are invited to stay for Virtual Coffee Hour

Confession of Sin (by Thom M. Shuman) and Creed (c) Iona Community / Wild Goose Publications



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