

*ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
March 14, 2021
The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: For God so loved the world;

All: The sparrows, the mountain lions, the fish and the people.

One: For God so loved the world;

All: In success and failure, in sickness and health, in mediocrity and the extraordinary.

One: For God so loved the world;

All: Enough to become one of us, enough to suffer along with us, enough to offer new life for us.

One: For God so loved the world;

All: Let us worship God!

HYMN

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus, 398

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: You have to look your evil in the face to be healed. The snakes that plagued the Hebrews in the desert were their betrayal come back to bite them, their being Eden's serpent. The cure was to gaze at their sin.

All: So we gaze upon the Crucified One, our victim, and look our awfulness in the eye and only there grasp forgiveness, and only then become truly alive.

One: On the cross is lifted up our racism, our violence, our materialism, our deep seated me-first-ism.

All: Posted there is our last text to God, "I'll let you know when I need you."

One: We look at it, look at it hard, to get free of the lie that we're just fine, the lie that keeps us from knowing

All: How deeply we are forgiven, how vastly we are blessed, how infinitely we are loved.

-Silence is kept-

Trisagion
(AgiOS O Theos)

Russian Orthodox

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,
ho - ly and e - ter - nal, have mer - cy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND SHARING PEACE

One: Forgiven, loved, and free - here and now, we are the children of God. Peace be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY MOMENT

GOSPEL READING

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "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." Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

SERMON

"One Way Only?"

The Rev. Dr. James Campbell

SUNG RESPONSE:

Stay With Me, 286

Stay with me, remain here with me.

Watch and pray, watch and pray.

(sung twice)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

HYMN

The Gift of Love, 397

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION