

Looking for Love...

Look for the Liberator

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 26th, 2023, 11:00 am

GATHERING

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

“Wondrous Love”

Don Hustad

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Mary Porter

Introit

“Out of the Depths”

AUS TIEFER NOT

*Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me calling.
Incline your ear to my distress in spite of my rebelling.
Do not regard my sinful deeds.
Send me the grace my spirit needs; without it I am nothing.*

Call to Worship

Brandon Bierley

People of God, whom do you worship?

**We worship the living God,
the God who raised Jesus from the dead.**

People of God, on whom do you wait?

**We wait on the God who waits on us,
who creates and never stops –
making and mending and making whole.**

*** Hymn 402**

“How Lovely, Lord”

MERLE’S TUNE

*1 How lovely, Lord, how lovely
is your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting,
to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter,
a place to build her nest;
and so your temple calls us
within its walls to rest.*

*2 In your blest courts to worship,
O God, a single day
is better than a thousand
if I from you should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance
and claim you as my Lord
than revel in the riches
the ways of sin afford.*

*3 A sun and shield forever
are you, O Lord Most High;
you shower us with blessings;
no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving,
from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers
of blessing overflow.*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy and Merciful One, in this season of discernment we come bringing our deepest longings, and our failed attempts at satisfying them. We have often looked for love, for acceptance and security, in the mirage of certainty, believing that if we just hold things very tightly, we will survive.

**We yearn for lives that matter, we desire relationships that thrive,
we want less regret.**

At times we fail to see that you have already given us what really matters: your love and acceptance. You provide opportunities all around us to make a difference in the lives of others. You give us a fresh start each day, inviting us to do better.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

Friends, be assured by the Psalmist who says,
"In God, there is steadfast love, and the great power to redeem."
Let us respond together:

**We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our vision to the ways of love
created by God, embodied in Jesus, and already moving in us by the Spirit.
We are forgiven, loved, and freed! Amen!**

*** Sung Response**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

* The Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

WORD

Time for Children

Robert Newman

Anthem

“What Wondrous Love”

arr. Mark Hayes

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heavy cross for my soul!*

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great “I Am,”
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!*

*And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;
and when from death I’m free I’ll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
and through eternity I’ll sing on!*

Prayer for Illumination

Brandon Bierley

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.” ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Mary Porter

Hymn *292

"As the Wind Song"

WAIRUA TAPU

*1 As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known
where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.*

*2 As the rainbow after rain,
as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.*

Prayers of the People

Rev. Sharon Schuler

***Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison***

*** Offering**

*** Offertory Response**

*For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.*

EUCCHARIST

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Unison Prayer After Communion

**God is great; God is good;
and we thank you for our food.
By your hands we all are fed.
Thank you, Lord, for daily bread. Amen.**

SENDING

*** Hymn 53**

"O God, Who Gives Us Life"

NOEL

*1 O God, who gives us life and breath,
who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death,
then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill
the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still
is making all things new.*

*2 O God, who calls your people out
to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt
and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering
through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring
of hope that never dies.*

*3 O God of covenant and law,
revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe;
we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you
and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew
the covenant of love.*

*** Benediction**

*** Benedictory Response**

*** Postlude**

"Toccata Brevis"

Ovid Young

* Those who are able are invited to stand.