

**First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

Call to Worship

Hob Pusey

Great is the Lord—
exalted among the nations.
Mighty is the Lord—
King of heaven and earth.
Holy is the Lord—
beyond our understanding.
Let us worship our God and King!
Let us worship the Triune God. Amen.

Invocation

Hob Pusey

Jesus, today we celebrate your transfiguration.
You remind us that you are powerful and holy.
We cannot completely understand you,
but you do teach us that you are our God and you love us.
We praise you, holy Lord!
We glorify you, almighty King!
We exalt you, Son of God!
Thank you for showing us who you are.
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn 4

How Great Thou Art

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r thro'-out the universe displayed.*

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

*When thro' the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.
Refrain.*

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.
Refrain.*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.
Refrain.*

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Prayer of Confession

Hob Pusey

Eternal God,
we confess that we do not expect and long for
the transforming power of your love
to work miracles in these hard hearts of ours.
Yet we secretly long for a rescue, an escape, a miracle,
to relieve us of the responsibilities and the challenges you set before us.
Healing Spirit, renew our confidence in your power
and in the power of love to change our lives,
and give us courage to be the fully responsible persons
Christ calls us to be. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hob Pusey

Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
And all of us, with unveiled faces,
seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror,
are being transformed into the same image
from one degree of glory to another,
for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and transformed!
Praise be to God!

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God!

! Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation **Do good and share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.**

Offering **Please place your offerings in the plate in the
back of the church on your way out*

Offertory

! Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

! Prayer of Dedication

Praise be to you, LORD,
the God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, LORD, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.
Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.
Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name. **Amen.**

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading *Colossians 1:18-25*

¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,

Sermon *"The Cruciform Life"*
 Rev. Tim Latham

Responding
We respond to God's Word

 **Hymn** *The Power of the Cross*

*Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood*

*This the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross*

*Oh to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin
Ev'ry bitter thought ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow*

*Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life
Finished the vict'ry cry*

*Oh to see my name written in the wounds
For through Your suff'ring I am free
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live
Won through Your selfless love*

*This the pow'r of the cross
Son of God slain for us
What a love what a cost
We stand forgiven at the cross*

Profession of Faith

Leader: Let us now profess our faith along with the saints through the ages.

People: We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayers of the People

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Hymn

Cornerstone

Hillsong

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name*

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name*

*Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all*

*When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale*

*My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil*

Interlude

He is Lord Lord of all

*When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**

****Please mark your calendars to include the Congregational Meeting which will now be held on March 7th. The meeting was cancelled from it's original date due to weather.**