

**5th Sunday in Lent  
March 21, 2021**

**Gathering  
God invites us to enter His presence**

**Prelude**

*There's Not a Friend  
Happy the Soul Who Dwells on God*

*Prentiss  
Blake*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

**🕯️ Call to Worship**

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?**

The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

**Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is he, this King of glory?

**The LORD Almighty— he is the King of glory.**

Let us worship the Triune God. Amen.

**🕯️ Invocation**

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

Lord, open to us the sea of your mercy,  
and water us with full streams  
from the riches of your grace  
and the springs of your kindness.  
Make us children of quietness and heirs of peace;  
kindle in us the fire of your love,  
and strengthen our weakness by your power  
as we become close to you and to each other. **Amen.**

**🕯️ Hymn 64**

*All Creatures of our God and King*

*All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam, O praise Him, O praise Him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! A-men.*

*Thou rushing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise Him, Alleluia! Thou rising morn in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice, O praise Him, O praise Him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! A-men.*

*Thou flowing water, pure and clear, Make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
That givest man both warmth and light, O praise Him, O praise Him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! A-men.*

*And all ye men of tender heart, Forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye, Alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on Him cast your care, O praise Him, O praise Him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! A-men.*

*Let all things their Creator bless, And worship Him in humbleness,  
O praise Him, Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One. O praise Him, O praise Him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! A-men.*

**Confessing**  
**God invites us to be honest with Him**

**Prayer of Confession**  
*(Responsively)*

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

**Lord, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

**If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?**

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

**I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the  
morning, more than those who watch for the morning.**

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.

**Time for Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

When you were dead in trespasses  
and the uncircumcision of your flesh,  
God made you alive together with Christ,  
when he forgave us all our trespasses,  
erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands.  
He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*

**All: Thanks be to God!**



*Be still my soul! The Lord is on thy side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul! Thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
Thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be still, my soul! Thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still know.  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.*

*Be still, my soul! The hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrows forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul! When change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

**Proclaiming**  
**God speaks to us through His Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Scripture Reading**

*1 Corinthians 10:1-22*

<sup>10</sup> For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup> nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup> Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup> Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup> I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. <sup>16</sup> The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup> Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. <sup>18</sup> Consider the people of Israel:<sup>1</sup> are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? <sup>19</sup> What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? <sup>20</sup> No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. <sup>21</sup> You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. <sup>22</sup> Shall we provoke the

Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

**Sermon**

*"Flee from Idolatry"*  
Rev. Tim Latham

**Responding**  
**We respond to God's Word**

 **Hymn**

*Abide with Me*

*Abide with me fast falls the eventide  
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee  
Help of the helpless abide with me.*

*Thou on my head in early youth didst smile  
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile  
Thou hast not left me though I oft left Thee  
On to the close Lord abide with me.*

*I need Thy presence every passing hour  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be  
Through cloud and sunshine abide with me.*

*I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight tears lose their bitterness  
Where is thy sting death where grave thy victory  
I triumph still abide with me.*

*Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies  
Heav'n's morning breaks  
And earth's vain shadows flee  
In life in death Lord abide with me.*

 **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 404**      *The Solid Rock*

*My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*Refrain  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand—  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
Refrain.*

*His oath, His covenant, His blood  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.  
Refrain.*

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

#### **Benediction & Blessing**

#### **Postlude**

*The Joy of the Lord*

*Sewell*