

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Online Worship Service – February 21, 2021

Revised Common Lectionary Readings
 First Sunday in Lent
 Year B

Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalm 25:1-10
 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15

Prelude

Welcome and Opening Prayer*

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. So guide us, that following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of your kingdom that has even now drawn near. Amen.

**adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion., (c) 2014 Westminster John Knox Press*

Call to Worship

Psalm 130:1-2, 5-6

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!

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits;

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

Hymn

My Song is Love Unknown (v. 1-2, 5)
 The Presbyterian Hymnal, #76

Confession*

Psalm 25:6-7

“Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love...Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness’ sake, O LORD!”

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. In the violence we condone, the injustice we participate in, and the advantages we seek for ourselves, we reveal our hearts.

Forgive us, we pray. Teach us again your commandments and heal our hearts, that we may turn from evil, and turn toward your kingdom drawing near. In your covenantal love, remember us, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety and new life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

(personal confession)

Assurance and Peace

1 Peter 3:18

“For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God...”

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture

Lamentations 1
(selections)

Sermon

The Poetry of Lament

Hymn

By the Babylonian Rivers (Psalm 137)
Glory to God Hymnal, # 72

Offering and Doxology

Psalm 25:10

“All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness...”

In this season of Lent, we remember the gifts of nourishment that God gives us during our wilderness journeys. Let us now share our gifts in joyful response to God’s sustaining grace. Please prayerfully consider the time, talents, or gifts you have received, and how you can give them back to God in love and service to others.

Prayer of Dedication and Prayers of the People*

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we are humbled as we try to do what is right and to walk in your ways. Receive, we ask, these offerings, and use them for your own good purposes.

Steadfast God, as we enter this Lenten season, and the journey we are invited into, we pray that you would empower us with courage and faithfulness. That this would be a season of truth and restoration – truth about ourselves and about us, and about the world you have created and have come to redeem.

Lord, hear our prayers for the deep needs of the world. In places of violence, give us courage to lay down the things of death and pick up the ways of life. In places of drought, bring the rains of the clouds, and quench parched hearts. Where there is hunger, may bread from the fields of the earth and the bread from heaven nourish us.

We pray especially for those in Texas and other places ravaged and put in danger by the cold and snow storms.

As we continue to grapple with these overwhelming pandemic challenges, we pray that you would grant special measures of strength and endurance to healthcare workers and other essential workers who labor on the frontlines of this struggle. And we pray for all who are now facilitating vaccination and for those who are providing the vaccines. We pray for your comfort for all who are sick and for all who have lost loved ones. Grant us all wisdom and courage for the living of this hour.

We continue to pray for those who are known to us. For those who mourn...

And for those in need of healing...

For our sisters and brothers of the Martin Luther King Community Presbyterian Church.

And we ask your continued presence with all at the Oak Hill, Chapel Hill, Waterman Lake, Madonna Manor, the Highlands, and Atria assisted living facilities, and all who are separated from family and friends in this time.

And now hear us as we offer our personal prayers for all those on our hearts and in our minds...

In those places where cries of lament ring out – for healing, for justice, for wholeness, for forgiveness – Lord, do not allow us to simply pass by. But let it be known that we are heard...may the grace of even your silence speak to us, that you are the God who holds all the tears of this world, and that there is a day coming when all tears will be wiped away. We pray in the name of the One who has come to hold, and heal; to walk with us, and to carry the weight of our burdens, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together with boldness,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen. us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**portions adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion and Rev. Roger Gench, Presbyterian Outlook liturgy for the First Sunday in Lent, 2021*

Hymn

Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me
Glory to God Hymnal, # 71

Charge and Benediction

The love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forevermore. Amen.