

Sunday March 29th, 2020

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: We are God's people, gathering from many places, to give thanks and to proclaim God's steadfast love.

All: This gift of love has no end.

One: We receive this gift with open hearts and open hands.

All: We are ready to worship and to serve, wherever we are.

One: We gather from our homes, from different towns and villages,

All: but wherever we are, we know God is with us.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Hymn: VU 410 "This Day God Gives Me"

Prayer of Approach (said together)

God of the unknown, our souls are troubled until they find their rest in you. Afraid that we have not truly lived, we fear our own mortality and the deaths of those dear to us. Help us to face the future unafraid, that we may know in the very marrow of our bones the truth of Christ's words: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

In our living and in our dying, renew us in the knowledge that you are drawing all people to yourself. Amen.

Good News Time

The Lord's Prayer

Minute For Mission – Our Generation

Hymn: "We Know We're Not Alone"
Words © Ceri Rees 2020 Tune: "*Franconia*"

Prayer of Reflection (said together)

God of infinite chances, you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray; you are ever more ready to offer forgiveness than we are to seek it for ourselves, or for others. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. For we are weighed down by the burden of petty resentments and trivial slights that poison our souls like toxic fumes. We pray for the courage and the strength to seek forgiveness for all the mistakes we've made. Amen.

Time of Reflection

Words of Assurance

One: The One who loves us is faithful, remembering our sins no more.

All: We look within and know that we are loved and accepted by our gracious God. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 139: 7-12

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18: 21-35

Anthem: Matthew West – “*Forgiveness*”

Message: Ed's Story – part five, “*Ask Forgiveness*”

Hymn: VU 364 “*Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*”

The Offering

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low,
Give thanks to God in love made known,
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

Prayers of the People

Hymn: VU 422 “*God Be With You Till We Meet Again*”

The Blessing and Benediction

***Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of every day;
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe;
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above!
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.***

Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price, Music: Don Besig © 1999

Bonus: Christafari – “Pandemic (Quarantine Anthem)”