

Sunday, March 7th, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Worship the Lord with gladness;

All: Come before him with joyful songs.

One: Know that the Lord is God.

All: It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

One: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

All: Give thanks to him and praise his name.

Hymn: **VU# 375** "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

Lighting the Christ Candle

Prayer of Approach (said together)

Speak with authority in our lives, Lord. Speak to us, and to what is in us, so that we might be whole. May this time of worship praise your name.

Speak to us, with love, with hope, and with strength, so that we might hear you, and know, deep inside, that we are your people, and that you are our God.

Amen!

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Gospel Reading: John 2: 13-22

Hymn: **VU# 652** "Be Still, My Soul"

The Lord's Prayer

Good News Time

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we enter your presence confessing the things we try to conceal from you and the things we try to conceal from others. We confess the heartbreak, worry, and sorrow we have caused, that make it difficult for others to forgive us.

We also confess the times we have made it easy for others to do wrong, the harm we have done that makes it hard for us to forgive ourselves. Lord, have mercy and forgive us through Christ. Amen.

(A time of quiet reflection on the prayer we have just shared)

Assurance of Pardon

One: "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments.

All: We return to the Lord our God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and God relents from sending calamity. Amen.

Anthem: Highrock Church, Boston – *"Is He Worthy?"*

Sermon: Guest preacher – **Rev Phillip Martin**, pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond, Virginia

Hymn **VU# 684** "Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace"

The Offering

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Hymn **VU# 651** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

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

Postlude: Passion City Church – "The Blessing"