

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Rev. Kevin M. Pleas

Online Worship

February 21, 2021

PRELUDE "Blessed Assurance" – arr. Mark Hayes Adam Peithmann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Kevin Pleas

INTROIT "There's Something About That Name" – William and Gloria Gaither

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Come, all who are poor in spirit;
Come, all who mourn;
Come, all who are meek;
Come, all who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

**People: Come, all who would be merciful;
Come, all who would be pure in heart;
Come, all who would be peacemakers.**

Leader: Let us come together—the weak, the simple, the powerless, the foolish.

**People: Let us confess that the source of our life is Christ Jesus.
Let us worship the God of every blessing.**

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

With different gifts, with a variety of talents, with an array of interests, we come to worship you, our creating God. We are here to unite our spirits, to be made one in Jesus Christ, to be merged in hope as your children. Bless our differences, that the unique gifts and perceptions of each may strengthen our oneness. Drawn into your Spirit, we give you the thanks of our hearts, in the name of the living Christ. Amen.

HYMN # 386 "We Come as Guests Invited"

PASTORAL PRAYER Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE "In This Time"

SCRIPTURE READING

Peter Perich

Luke 19:1-10 (New Revised Standard Version)

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not,

because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

“Changing Lives: Zaccheaus”

THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to join in the sacrament using your own version of the bread and the wine.

INVITATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we thank you for the love that brings us food from heaven, gives us the life of your dear Son, and assures us that we belong to the company of all his faithful people in heaven and on earth. Grant that, strengthened by this fellowship and by the power of his Holy Spirit, we may continue his work in the world, until we come to the glory of your eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN # 595

“Be Thou My Vision”

CLOSING WORDS

BENEDICTION (Unison)

**Sisters and brothers,
Let us claim the freedom Christ gives us
By his self-giving on the cross.
May he enable us to serve together
In faith, hope and love.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Amen**

POSTLUDE

“Lift High the Cross” – arr. Larry Schackley

Please note: In these difficult times, we are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. For those who are able, we are grateful for your continuing contributions to the stewardship of our church.

Opening Hymn # 386

“We Come as Guests Invited”

1. We come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine, his friends on earth united to share the bread and wine; the bread of life is broken, the wine is freely poured for us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.
2. We eat and drink, receiving from Christ the grace we need, and in our hearts believing on him by faith we feed; with wonder and thanksgiving for love that knows no end, we find in Jesus living our ever present friend.
3. One bread is ours for sharing, one single fruitful vine, our fellowship declaring renewed in bread and wine: renewed, sustained, and given by token, sign, and word, the pledge and seal of heaven, the love of Christ our Lord.

Closing Hymn # 595

“Be Thou My Vision”

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my redeemer, my love thou has won, thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, first in my heart, Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
4. Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.