

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Rev. Richard Slater

Online Worship

March 14, 2021

**PRELUDE** “The Old Rugged Cross” – arr. George Bennard Adam Peithmann

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Kevin Pleas

**INTROIT (HYMN # 261)** “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

## CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Let us worship God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.

**People: We are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!**

Leader: Let us worship God as Christ’s ambassadors.

**People: Through us and through our worship may we announce the good news to all.**

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**People: Praise God! We are reconciled, redeemed and renewed!**

## OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**HYMN # 80** “My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Rev. Richard Slater

## 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 (HYMN # 303)** “In This Time”

**MUSICAL OFFERING** “A Gospel Prelude” – arr. Charles Callahan Elizabeth Blood, piano  
& Adam Peithmann, organ

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 8:26-40 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are

reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

John 15:1-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

#### **PASTOR’S MESSAGE**

“Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” Rev. Richard Slater

#### **HYMN # 542**

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

#### **CLOSING WORDS**

#### **BENEDICTION (Unison)**

**May the blessing of God,  
The giver of every good and perfect gift;  
And of Christ,  
Who summons us to service;  
And the Holy Spirit,  
Who inspires generosity and love,  
Be with us all.  
Amen.**

#### **POSTLUDE**

“Toccata in c minor” – Johann Pachelbel

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**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.**

**Introit**  
**Hymn no. 261**

**“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”**

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord; there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain: Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

**Opening Hymn no. 80**                   **“My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”**

1. My Shepherd, you supply my need; most holy is your name; in pastures fresh you make me feed, beside the living stream. You bring my wand’ring sprit back, when I forsake your ways; you lead me, for your mercy’s sake, in paths of truth and grace.

2. When through the shades of death I walk, your presence is my stay; one word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away. Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread; my cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.

3. Your sure provisions, gracious God, attend me all my days; O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise. Here would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.

**Prayer Response**  
**Hymn no. 303**

**“In This Time”**

In this time of quiet reverence, God fill us now with everlasting peace and may each and ev’ry day we live bring true faith in your abiding love.

**Closing Hymn no. 542**                   **“Jesus, Love of My Soul”**

1. Jesus, love of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly, while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high; hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past; safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last!

2. Other refuge have I none; hangs my helpless soul on thee; leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me. All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring; cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

3. Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin; let the healing streams abound, make and keep me pure within. Thou my life the fountain art, freely let me take of thee; spring thou up within my heart, rise to all eternity.