

Morning Worship
March 31, 2019
4th Sunday in Lent

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

The congregation is asked to make use of the prelude as a time of preparation, meditation and prayer.

Greeting

Dr. Dan Sansbury

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship

Marietta Melton Burch

We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation;

We are God's own people, that we may declare the wonderful deeds of the One who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.

Once we were no people, but now we are God's people.

Once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy in Jesus Christ. (adapted from I Peter 2)

*Hymn 473 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Invitation to Confession

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the one to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. [Psalm 32.1-2]

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God, we are thankful beyond words that you forgive us of all of sins, mistakes, trespasses and transgressions. You even forgive us of our failure to admit our need of your forgiveness. Help us today to see our need for your reconciling love in all of our relationships. Help us to admit to what we have contributed to any family breakdowns or fractured friendships. Have your way in us and through us more and more by your forgiving, healing and strengthening Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of Christ. Make us individually and together the people that you want us to be, for the glory of your name. Amen

(Time for silent confession)

Assurance of Pardon

I acknowledged my sin to you, O God, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" then you did forgive the guilt of my sin.

[Psalm 32.5]

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*RESPONSE *We Are Forgiven*

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

* Holy Interruption *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

Giving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

* Praise of God *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee

*Prayer of Dedication

We Receive God's Word

Children's Sermon

Dr. Dan Sansbury

Preschool-Kindergarten age children are dismissed to the Pray n' Play program held in the room beside the church nursery in the main Church building. Children who are in the 1st grade and higher should return to their seats in the congregation.

Anthem *What Feast Will You Bring?*

Charles McCartha

Flutist: Eva Goddard

What feast will you bring? Who will sit at your table?

Will you ask the broken, the hungry, the poor?

Will you seat them and feed them and show them by deed;

The love the Lord gives us is given to all.

To the feast will you bring the first fruits from your garden?

Will you bring from the cellar your most treasured wine?

Will you serve them on rarest white linen cloth,

With silver most cherished, most cherished and fine?

How will you heal the sick and the broken?

How will you feed the hungry and poor?

Will you give them the treasure laid up in your storeroom?

Will you open your heart and give even more?

What feast do you bring as Christ sits at your table?

Do bring your first fruits and most treasured wine?

Do you serve them on rarest white linen cloth,

With silver most cherished, most cherished and fine?

Do you see Christ in the sick and the broken?

Do you see Christ in the hungry and poor?

Will you give Him the treasure laid up in your storeroom?

Will you open your heart and give even more?

“As you do unto them so you do unto me,”

Says Christ our savior, our Lord and King.

Is your table set for the least of these?

What feast will you bring them?

What feast will you bring?

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Lesson Matthew 18:21-35

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Dr. Dan Sansbury

“OUR LENTEN JOURNEY, IV: “The Wilderness of Forgiveness”

*Affirmation Hymn *I Believe in God the Father*

I believe in God the Father, merciful and mighty Lord, maker of the earth and heavens, whom we worship and adore; and in Jesus Christ the Son, only Savior, sovereign one, by the Holy Spirit given, born of Mary, blessed virgin.

Under Pilate, Jesus suffered, faithful to his final breath.

He was crucified and buried, and descended into death.

From the grave he did arise; he ascended through the skies;

now enthroned with God in heaven, he will judge the dead and living.

I believe in God the Spirit, and the church in every place; saints in glorious communion, all forgiven, full of grace; flesh and blood will live again; life in Christ will never end. Holy Spirit, Son and Father: I will praise your name forever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

We Depart in God's Name

* Hymn 432 *Song of Hope*

* Benediction and Sending

* Postlude

If you are interested in knowing more about this congregation, or in officially joining as a church member, please speak to Dr. Sansbury after the worship service. All persons **are invited** to participate in all the ministry activities of our congregation.

TODAY is the fourth Sunday of Lent. Dr. Sansbury's messages during Lent will focus on the theme of “wilderness.” We will remember the Exodus stories of the Israelites in the wilderness, and many others. As a Church, we seek God's clear guidance for our future together. For next Sunday, a communion Sunday, read Matthew 6-7.

We **welcome** Beth Maier as our pianist today.

