



Service of Word & Sacrament
28 February 2010
Second Sunday in Advent

Order of Worship

Prelude

(We listen to music to prepare our hearts and minds for worship. After the prelude, please STAND for the Call to Worship and the Hymn.)

The people call one another to worship...

Call to Worship

Leader: In this season of Lent, we remember Jesus' death in love for us and all people.

People: Lent is a time of tears.

Leader: But out of tears, joy is born: the joy of sin forgiven, of hope reborn, and of life restored.

People: We stand in awe of the God who brings joy out of tears, whose love is eternal. Let us worship with reverence.

Hymn 407 – "How Firm a Foundation"

Welcome & Passing of the Peace

Minister: No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Whether you are here for the first time or the one hundred and first time, it is God who has invited you, and you belong here. So for this next hour set aside your cares and worries, and let God love you. Let us offer our blessing to one another as we gather in God's name.

All: You are a beloved child of God. May God give you abundant life and eternal love. May God make you extravagant in your welcome, courageous in your witness, and through you, transform the world.

Minister: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Please join us as we greet each other with a handshake or an embrace, saying, "Peace be with you." Then please BE SEATED.)

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Too often our hearts are cold and without gratitude. Too often our hands are passive and unwilling to carry out acts of mercy. Too often our lips are pursed tightly, unwilling to speak words of love. Let us confess our separation and alienation in prayer.

People: Eternal God, you love us steadfastly, but we do not always love in return. You call us, but we refuse to hear. You reveal yourself, but we refuse to see. You lead us toward our neighbor, but we turn away. O God, help us to see ourselves both as we are in our sin, and as we might be in your grace. With your eternal love, forgive us, renew us, and restore us to your service. Amen.

Leader: God says: You are my chosen ones, and I love you. I forgive you and restore you to my covenant, which I will never forsake. Let us give thanks to God in song.

Sung Response (Hymn 188) – “Give Me a Clean Heart”

God speaks!

Old Testament Reading from the 43rd Chapter of the Book of Isaiah, Verses 1-7

Psalm 34 – New Century Hymnal, page 681

(The accompanist plays the response (*R*) the first time alone. The second time the congregation joins in song. Then the response (*R*) is sung again with accompaniment where indicated during the reading of the canticle.)

New Testament Reading from the 14th Chapter of the Gospel of Mark, Verses 32-42

(Please STAND before the reading of the Gospel and respond as follows.)

Leader: Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People: We listen, O Holy Spirit.

(After the Gospel, please respond as follows and then BE SEATED.)

Leader: This is our sacred story.

People: We praise you, O God.

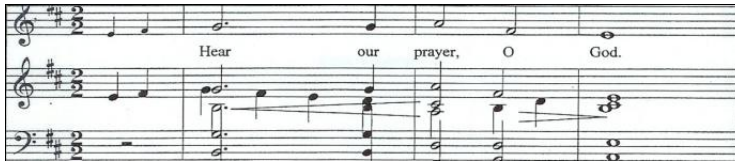
Sermon – “No Greater Love” ~ The Reverend Rita Wilbur

(Please STAND for the Hymn. During the Hymn the children and youth may leave for Sunday School; afterwards those remaining in the congregation may BE SEATED.)

Hymn 554 – “Out of the Depths, O God, We Call”

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

(Following the pastoral prayer, you are invited to light a candle as you offer a petition or thanksgiving, aloud or in silence. After each individual prayer, we sing the following response.)



All: **Our Father in heaven,
 Hallowed be your name,
 Your kingdom come,
 Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.**

Announcements (Please see insert.)

The people rejoice!

The Offertory

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Open your hearts.

People: We open them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the living God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: As we prepare the table for Christ's supper, let us recall the words of the apostle Paul: So then, my sisters and brothers, because of God's great mercy to us, I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to God's service and pleasing to God. We will now present our offerings.

(After the offering basket is passed through the congregation, please STAND as the basket and the bread and wine are brought forward to sing the following Offertory Response and then BE SEATED.)

Song of Praise – New Century Hymnal 776

Remembrance

Minister: Lent is not a time of sorrowmay we be poured out as a cup of blessing to others.

All: Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that in sharing the meal of Christ, we may become his co-workers and companions of the way. Amen.

The Lord's Supper (Jesus' table is OPEN to everyone who wishes to share in this communion fellowship.)

(When the bread is offered, take a piece and hold it. When the cup is offered, dip the bread into the wine and eat it. After all are served and a period of silence has been observed, please STAND for the Prayer of Thanksgiving and REMAIN STANDING for the Hymn, Benediction and Commission that follow.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Leader: Please rise and join in the following prayer.

All: Faithful God, we are thankful that you have revealed to us the vision of life in covenant with you and with one another. We are thankful that you have sent Jesus Christ to invite people of all ages, tongues, and races into faithful covenant, and that Christ is present with us in the breaking of bread. Through your Spirit, strengthen us to be faithful in all we have promised today. Amen.

Hymn 405 – “Yes, God Is Real”

God is still speaking...

Benediction & Commission

Leader: We are a chosen group, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that we may declare the wonderful deeds of God who called us out of darkness and into marvelous light. Go into the world; live as God's people, through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. The service is ended.

People: We leave to serve the world.