

MORNING WORSHIP

March 7, 2021

Half past Ten O'Clock

Third Sunday in Lent GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

TIME OF MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

WELCOME AND NOTICES

INTROIT

"Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"
Selwyn Chamber Singers

BOURBON

Suzanne Newsom, soprano; Julie Harris, alto; Dick Metzler, tenor; Ivey Cherry, baritone

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The season of Lent is the faithful journey to salvation –

People: Salvation that is found beyond the cross, in an empty tomb.

Leader: We remember God has already saved us -

People: God brought Israel out of Egypt with a mighty hand, to safety on the other side of the sea.

Leader: We recognize that God is saving us now -

People: Even in the wilderness or the chaotic waters of Lent, God's spirit gathers and guides.

Leader: As we turn toward Jerusalem, we repent, we pray, we fast.

People: God will be near to inspire and encourage us along the way.

Leader: Come, let us continue this journey of Lent; let us follow Christ to the cross.

*HYMN

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

ST. CHRISTOPHER

**Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.**

**Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.**

**I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

adapted from Joel 12:12-14

Leader: "Even now," declares the Lord, "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping and mourning.

People: Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God,

Leader: God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love,

The Lord relents from sending calamity. Let us confess before God and one another.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Micah 6, Psalm 15, Matthew 5, 1 Corinthians 1

Leader: Far too often God, we desire to look wise in the eyes of the world.

**People: We have not spoken truth with our hearts. We have said and done hurtful things to our friends.
We have forgotten our true identity, wandering into ways that are not Yours.**

Leader: We have lost the path of true worship, disheartened and distracted by everyday life.

People: We have forgotten what true discipleship is.

Leader: And because of this, You challenge us.

People: Forgive and help us as we seek to become the people You have created and called us to be: people of justice, love, truth, humility, and yes, even foolishness.

Leader: May we be fools for Christ, embracing our true identity,
even in the face of the world's scorn and derision.

**People: Our God is a God of blessing. Our God is a God of love and justice, wisdom and truth.
Living and loving in that spirit, we repent (silent prayers). Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR REID WILSON MCCORDUCK

Emily Kincade, Assisting Elder

+Invitation to Baptism

The Meaning of Baptism

Questions to the Parents and to the Congregation

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal, p. 14

Prayer and the Act of Baptism

Greeting a Child of God

Leader: Reid Wilson McCorduck is now identified as a child of God in Christ's Church. Through Baptism, God has put His seal upon Reid to share with us all the benefits of Christ's sacrifice. Let us be supportive of Jason and Britta as they nurture Reid and assist him to be a faithful disciple.

**People: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Reid into Christ's Church, for we are all one in Christ.
We promise to love, encourage and support you, to share the good news of God's love with you,
and to celebrate with you God's unfolding blessings.**

*SUNG RESPONSE

"Jesus Love Me!"

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as He loved so long ago,

taking children on His knee, saying "Let them come to me."

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 8:27-38

SERMON

"Climbing to the Top"

Lori Archer Raible

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN

"Lift High the Cross"

CRUCIFER

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod, the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, Your death has brought us life eternally.

Refrain

So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory.

Refrain

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

Text to Give

704-734-9818

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Lord, in Thy Mercy Grant Us Peace"
Selwyn Chamber Singers

Felix Mendelssohn

*DOXOLOGY

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Great and generous God, our lives are surrounded by things that steal our lives, inflict and destroy us. The tithes and offering we share with You keep us focused not on the things that will renew our humanity: hope, love, compassion, empathy. As we look ahead we see the true cost of discipleship, a Savior on a cross leading to eternal life. In the holy name of Jesus, the Messiah, we dedicate our time, talent, and treasure for the exhibition of Your Kingdom on Earth. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

For those worshipping in the Sanctuary, please be seated after the Benediction until after the Postlude ends. Then, take caution to maintain social distance as you exit the Narthex.

*Those who are able please stand.