

**Third Sunday of Lent
March 12, 2023 Worship Bulletin**

Gathering for God's Word

Prelude

*Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ

*Song of Praise

"Blessed Be Your Name"

Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name
Blessed Be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
When I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name
Every blessing You pour out, I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

Refrain:

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your Name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Bridge

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be Your name

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Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

Preparing for God's Word

A Minute with Psalm 146

*Call to Worship

[based on Psalm 146: 7-9]

Leader: Blessed are we whose help is found in the God of Jacob, whose hope is found in the Lord our God.

People: Our Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; He keeps faith forever, executes justice for the oppressed, and gives food to the hungry.

Leader: Our Lord sets the prisoners free. He opens the eyes of the blind.

People: He lifts up those who are bowed down. The Lord loves the righteous.

Leader: The Lord watches over strangers. He upholds the orphan and the widow and brings to ruin the way of the wicked.

People: Blessed are we whose help and hope are found in the Lord our God.

*Hymn of Adoration

#839, "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine"

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;

Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love

Text: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1873
Music: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873
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Prayer of Confession

All: O God, our great shepherd, you tenderly gather us as lambs, carrying us with your all-embracing love. Yet, like sheep, we wander from you: following our own ways, ignoring your voice, distrusting your provisions. Forgive our stubborn rebellion, our hardened hearts, our lack of trust. Refresh us once again by your quiet waters of mercy and restore our souls by your redeeming love. Guide our paths, that we might follow you more closely. . . .

[Silent confession]

Leader: Through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, we pray.

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

[based on Isaiah 49: 15; 66: 12-13]

Leader: Hear the Good News! God tells us, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb?"

People: A mother may forget, but I will never forget you. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you."

Leader: Through Christ, we have been restored and brought back into the fold of God! Praise the Lord.

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #188, "Jesus Loves Me."
After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

Hymn of Preparation

#2086, "Open Our Eyes," Sing the Faith Hymnal

Open our eyes, Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him
Open our ears, Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes, Lord
We want to see Jesus

Words & Music: Bob Cull
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Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 21: 8-19

8 The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. 9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, 10 and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. 12 But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. 13 I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring."

14 Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba.

15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. 16 Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob.

17 God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. 18 Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

Sermon

"Be-Wildered... When All That's Left is Tears"

Responding to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

[The Apostle's Creed]

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

Anthem

“Medley: Who Am I/ Praise You in the Storm,” Chad Graham

*Response

#606, The Doxology, “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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. 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.

*Hymn of Response

#475, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of God's unchanging love

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Hither by Thy help I've come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger

Interposed His precious blood

O, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, O take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758 alt.

Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813
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*Benediction

*Benediction Response

#2070, "He is Exalted," Sing the Faith Hymnal

He is exalted the King is exalted on High
I will praise Him
He is exalted forever exalted
And I will praise His name

He is the Lord
Forever His truth shall reign
Heaven and Earth
Rejoice in His holy name
He is exalted the King is exalted on high

Words & Music: Twila Paris

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*Postlude

*Please Stand if Able