



February 25, 2024
Second Sunday in Lent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Pastor Larry

Prelude

Ave Verum

Mozart

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

***Call to Worship**

Quinn Hetherington

Lenten travelers, the journey is long. Let us take a moment to rest and breathe.

Only in God do we find our rest.

Sometimes the road is easy, and we bask in the warmth of the Light who guides us.

Other times the road is hard, and we hide from the Light, afraid for our actions to be made known in public.

Somedays we delight in the joy of journeying together on this road.

Other days we struggle with the temptation to judge and condemn one another as we travel this path.

Today, let us come into the Light together as we learn to love God and one another through the twists and turns of our Lenten journey.

Come, let us worship God together! Amen.

Opening Prayer

Quinn Hetherington

Merciful God:

We come together to worship longing for tenderness because this world can be hard.

We come longing for light
because our lives are crowded with shadows.
We come desperately needing direction.
Fill us this morning with your peace:
your spirit is our peace and our path. Amen.

*** Hymn** *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

UMH 185

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***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Quinn Hetherington

Let us be known as children of the Most High by sharing our love with all as we pass the peace of Christ.

Children's Time

Pastor Larry

Ministry of Music

Purified

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Quinn Hetherington

Dear Lord, thank You for Your written Word and the mighty truths it contains. We pray that in the power of Your Holy Spirit, You would open our hearts and minds to the truths that You wish us to see. Amen

John 7:53, 8:1-12

7:53 Then they all went home,

8:1-12

¹ but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

² At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. ³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

¹¹ “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

O How He Loves You and Me

TFWS 2108

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Sermon

“Light in Dark Places”

Pastor Larry

Romans 8:35,37-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[k] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Morning Prayer

Pastor Larry

Offertory Invitation

Quinn Hetherington

God of Light, you gave us your only son so that we may experience eternal life. We humbly give these offerings as a faithful response to this gift. Money seems so insignificant when compared to your gift of life. Yet, we place this money before you as a sacrificial gesture of our gratitude. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Here Faith Abides

Peterson

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

***Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**Prayer of Dedication*

Quinn Hetherington

God of unwavering love, you have held nothing back in your love for us, not even your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love, and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to you. As we dedicate our offerings to you, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance you have called us to be. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

***Closing Hymn**

To God Be the Glory

UMH 98

Benediction

Pastor Larry

Choral Benediction

Shalom to You

UMH 666

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude

We Will Follow

Traditional Zulu

WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES

*When morning gilds the skies
my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer,
to Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*2. The night becomes as day
when from the heart we say:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
The powers of darkness fear
when this sweet chant they hear:
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*3. Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
In heaven's eternal bliss
the loveliest strain is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*4. Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th' eternal song
through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

O HOW HE LOVES YOU AND ME

*O how he loves you and me!
O how he he loves you and me!
He gave his life.
What more could he give?
O how he loves you;
O how he loves me;
O how he loves you and me!*

*Jesus to Calv'ry did go;
His love for sinners to show.
What he did there
Brought hope from despair.
O how he loves you;
O how he loves me;
O how he loves you and me!*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

*To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.*

Refrain:

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!***

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!***

***O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!***

*2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Refrain)*

*3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)*