



Sunday, March 14, 2021

Welcome!

We are thankful that you are worshiping with us today! To learn more about the life of our congregation, join our email list [here](#).

Here are some helpful resources for our younger worshipers:

[This Week's Children's Bulletin](#) | [Worship Worksheet for Kids](#)

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:30 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We worship in the season of Lent,
a time to examine our hearts and our lives
and journey with Christ through the suffering of the world.
Let us watch for the coming sign of God's power,
a humble servant lifted up on a cross.
God has marked us as beloved dust
and called us together to worship.

*OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, in order that the children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world. As Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in all truth and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 409

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

1. God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of Spirit into open minds and hearts.
2. Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

3. Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
4. Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Leader: May God be with you in worship there.

Congregation: **May God be with you in worship there.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Not one of us is worthy of God's forgiveness and mercy, and yet God stands alongside us,
reaching out to us. Enveloped in this unconditional love, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

By the gift of your grace we are saved, O God, from all that separates us from you.

Still, we would rather believe that we can earn your love.

Still, we would rather believe that we are in ultimate control.

Forgive us when we do not recognize the radical gift of your grace;

have mercy when we fail or refuse to share that grace with another.

Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy.

Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Again, we are promised that though we may walk away from Christ, Christ will never walk
away from us. It is in Christ that we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 215)

WONDROUS LOVE

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;

While millions join the theme, I will sing!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

I want to walk as a child of light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, who shows us the meaning of unconditional love by sending us your presence in human form, pour you Spirit onto us this day as we learn of your goodness and light. In your precious name, we pray. Amen.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Numbers 21:4-9
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

John 3:14-21
The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

Rev. David Madewell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

adapted from The Confession of 1967

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys and sorrow. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all of humanity. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgement under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all humanity.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

THE 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our hope, we give you thanks for letting us see even more clearly a sign of your unconditional love that knows no bounds. With this sign of your sacrifice, through bread and wine, help us to emulate your sacrificial love in our lives and in our world. We give you thanks. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 749

We Are Called

WE ARE CALLED

1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.
We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.
2. Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more.
We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.
3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.
We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHING

Rev. David Madewell

PRESIDING AT THE TABLE

Dennis Jewett, Director of Music

ASSISTING

Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Stephanie Dube, Director of Youth Ministries & Weekday School

MUSICIANS

Patrick Ritsch, Organist