

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Sunday, February 21, 2021

The First Sunday in Lent

(All music has been reproduced under One License # A719129)

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

WELCOME *Affirming, Caring, Growing Spiritually, Reaching Out*
...Michael Brooks

PRELUDE *Aria from the Goldberg Variations* J. S. Bach
...Andrea Battista, violin

CALL TO WORSHIP

VOICES UNITED **108, verses 1, 2, 3, 6** *Throughout These Lenten Days...*

**Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.**

**The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.**

**We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of Life.**

**Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!**

PEACE GREETING
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Covenant God,
**we confess that
though you have made a covenant of love with every living creature,
we often create human hierarchies and differences.
Though your covenant makes no distinction between life forms,
we abuse your creation and live
as though humanity's destiny is supreme.
Though your covenant is for all flesh,
sexism, racism, ageism and colonialism
pervade our nations, our communities, and ourselves.**

(Silent Prayer)

Forgive us, O God.
Hold us by your covenant love, and never let us go. Amen.

MORE VOICES **91** (sing three times)
**Cradle me in your arms, cherish and comfort me.
O Jesus, source of healing love, in your presence I am free.**

COMMUNITY PRAYERS ...Karen Eade

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*
**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

SEEKING TO GROW SPIRITUALLY

FIRST BIBLE READING [Genesis 9: 8-17](#) *(click link to view text)*

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION *A New Beginning* P. Cardall

GOSPEL BIBLE READING [Mark 1: 9-15](#) *(click link to view text)*

SERMON

“RECIPROCITY”

RESPONDING IN CARE

INVITATION FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Largo

G. P. Telemann

REACHING OUT IN LOVE

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

VOICES UNITED **578** *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*

**As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbours everywhere.**

**We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit, we would live to God's delight.**

**As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness mid earth's peoples, many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.**

POSTLUDE

Fantasia in G minor

J. Pachelbel