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PRELUDE *The Sun will Soon Set on Calvary* (Miller)

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL to WORSHIP²

Pastor: Dear Lord, you walked The Way of Salvation for us. As we see your sacrifice, lead us too, in the way of the wilderness, the way of the cross, the way that leads to eternal life. Amen.

HYMN *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross, on which the
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sor - row and
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1707 (Gal. 6:14)
MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1824

HAMBURG
LM

¹ Much of the worship liturgy for this year's Lenten season will be adapted from a hard copy resource called "Worship in the Wilderness" by Sara and Sam Hargreaves/Music and Worship Foundation 2018. This is from Pastor Laura's personal worship material library.

² Bair, Rev. Laura C. Starview UCC. 2021

CONFESSION OF SIN (Based on Isaiah 53 and Numbers 21)

Pastor: The song we just sang, ends with the world, “love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.” Yet, we know that the love of “the world” or worldly ways, also request much of our lives, consume our soul and even, demand our all. Let us confess...

All: *God, we have sinned against you. We have spoken against you and your Son, Jesus, the Lamb of God. We have uttered lies. We have cursed you and others. We have said vulgar things. We have been consumed by doubt. We have been bitten with the venom of hatred in our world. We have conspired knowingly and unknowingly with the powerful and oppressed the helpless. We have been intolerant of others. We have delighted in violence. We have spent money foolishly. Please, Lord of Light, forgive us our transgressions, that we may be healed of our sin. Amen.*³

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Based on John 3:17)

Pastor: Hear now the loving truth of God: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

All: *This is Good News! Thanks be to Christ for his act of sacrificial love that redeems us. Thanks be to God for a resurrection that saves us. Thanks be to the Spirit for the strength to begin life anew. Amen!*⁴

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 53:1-12 (NIV)

Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?

For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

³ Greening, Jamie D. Adapted from the Confession of Sin for the Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 14, 2021. Website: [Ministry Matters™ | Worship Elements: March 14, 2021](#)

⁴ Bair, Rev. Laura. Starview United Church of Christ. 2021

⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.
¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.
¹¹ After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.
¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

This is the Word of the Lord. Let all the people say, "Thanks be to God."

NEW TESTAMENT READING – John 3:14-21 (NIV)

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

This is the Good News of Christ, let all the people say, "Praise be to Christ."

SERMON

Loving Sacrifice in the Wilderness

Rev. Laura C. Bair

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lamb of God

Rachel Wertz, Vocal Solo

OFFERING INVITATION

Pastor: Our God of Light, in an act of sacrificial love, gave the only Son, Jesus, that all might experience eternal life. In humility, let us take a moment in silence to consider how we each, might respond to this amazing gift, with a sacrificial love offering – of our financial resources, time, and talents. In this way, we too, can share the promise of life eternal.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Based on John 3:14-21)

All: *O God, O Wondrous Love, you gave your only Son so that we may experience eternal life. We humbly give these offerings as a faithful response to this amazing gift. Money seems so insignificant when compared to your gift of life - eternal life. Yet, we place this money before you as a sacrificial gesture of our gratitude. We pray through Jesus who taught us, saying: 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.*

HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

RAY PALMER, 1830

6. 6. 4. 6. 6. 6. 4.

LOWELL MASON, 1832

In moderate time; not too slowly

1. My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2. May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3. While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs a - round me spread,
 4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - iour di - vine: Now hear me while I pray, Take all my
 My zeal in - spire; As Thou hast died for me, O may my
 Be Thou my Guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
 Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - iour, then, in love, Fear and dis -

guilt a - way, O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
 love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
 trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran-somed soul! A-MEN.

BENEDICTION⁵

Pastor: Just as God's Word Made Flesh, Jesus the Christ, was sent into the world to heal and redeem, so God sends us into the world this day to be light and love, healing and hope. So, go now to be light for the world! And may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer come upon you this day and remain with you always.

All: *Amen.*

POSTLUDE

At the Foot of the Cross (Baker)

⁵ A Benediction from "O Merciful God: God of Wisdom: Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Lent," written by Rev. Kathryn Matthews Huey and the Rev. Susan A. Blain. Posted on the United Church of Christ's [Worship Ways](#) website.