

March 12, 2023  
Third Sunday in Lent

## GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: To abide in you; to find strength in you;  
to worship you in these moments,

*All: we gather, O God.*

Pastor: To challenge the evil around us; to bring healing to the hurt;  
to offer hope to the vulnerable,

*All: we follow, Jesus our Brother.*

Pastor: To learn how to live; to put away our old gods;  
to stick with God in every moment,

*All: we listen, Holy Spirit.*

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*All: Lord of Life, we come this day to follow the ways you set before us. Show us the signs of your coming kingdom, that we may be worthy of our invitation. May we have the wisdom to teach our children your ways and pass on a better world to the generations to come. Amen.*

### HYMN

*Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Hymnal, #316

### CALL TO CONFESSION (Based on Romans 5:8 and Hebrews 4:16)

Pastor: The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### PRAYER of CONFESSION

*All: Lord, forgive us when we so easily turn our backs on you; when we choose not to help in times of need; when we utter words of anger and bitterness as ways to relate to one another. Heal our hearts and our wounded spirits. Lift us from the depths of our anguish into the light of your love that we may serve you faithfully. When the darkness becomes oppressive and we cling to our fears, O Lord, forgive us. Open our hearts and release us from all those things which block us from your love, for we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Based on Romans 5:1-2)

Pastor: Siblings in Christ, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God."

*All: God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Thanks be to God!*

### A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

### OLD TESTAMENT READING – Joshua 20:1-9

### GOSPEL READING – John 4:5-42

### SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura C. Baker

### CONGREGATIONAL ANTHEM

*He Will Hold Me Fast*

Bulletin Insert

### OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: We live in a world that thirsts—for justice, for compassion, for love. We are invited to share our gifts with faith, that they will serve as living water: quenching thirst, nurturing growth, healing the world. Let us offer our gifts for the work of this congregation, as well as nationally and globally. For all the Lord has given to us, let us give back to God in gratitude, with a prayer.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*All: O God, our gifts are so minute in comparison to your bounty. Transform our simple offering into ministries that quench parched lives with the water of eternal life. Nurture our need to share your water and your spirit through the gifts that you have given us so freely. In the name of the One who is the Messiah, we pray. Amen.*

### HYMN

*Abide with Me*

Hymnal, #51

### BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go now from this service of worship to the service of God's people near and far, refreshed by the living water that Jesus offers to you. Listen for the parched voices of the least of these; search out the dry places and the arid souls, and become for them a spring of living water. And as you go, may the blessings of the God of life, the Christ of love, and the Spirit of grace be upon you this day and forevermore.

*All: Amen.*

### POSTLUDE