

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Creator who wove joy throughout the whole cosmos
weaves joy within your own heart.
The Christ who experienced all our human joys and sorrows
travels right beside you.
The Spirit who whispers joy to our hearts
is present within you.
You are blessed
in the name of God: The Holy Three in One.

*All people: We will practice joy
that liberates from everything that binds.
Amen.*

POSTLUDE

March 3, 2024
Liberating Joy – Third Sunday in Lent

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone
Acolyte

CANDLELIGHTING

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP –

Pastor: People of God, we gather for worship to practice joy:
not because our lives are perfect,
but because joy is resilient.
Joy is God's gift for every season
and a wellspring at the heart of our faith.
When our sins feel heavy,

Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: When floods rise and fall,

Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: When hope surprises us,

Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: When God sets people free,

Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: When Jesus heals us,

Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: When we are called

Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: When we endure,

Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: We practice joy together,

All people: and God is with us.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All people: God our Liberator, we live in a world where so many are not free: kept in poverty, forced to labor, bound to economics that devalue and demean. Break the chains that hold your people where bodies suffer, and minds are locked. Guide us to joy beyond our imagining. Amen.

HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

Blue Chalice Hymnal, #464

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: People of God, the Merciful One already knows everything we confess. By naming our sins and hearing words of forgiveness, we are drawn deeper into relationship with God and one another. Let's bring before God what we have done wrong and what we've failed to do, trusting that we will receive the joy of being forgiven...(Moment of silence for personal, private confession to God)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: God of abundant goodness,

All people: we have hurt those we love, those far from us, ourselves, and your creation by what we do and by what we neglect. We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures and refuse to enjoy what you give. We are too content when injustice, violence, and hardship plague our neighbors. We ignore the gift of your presence in times both tragic and triumphant. Forgive us for what we have done and for what we have failed to do. Pour out on us the joy of your presence and heal what we have harmed. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends, receive these joyful words: You are entirely and completely forgiven for all of your sins. You are entirely and completely welcomed as God's beloved child. You are released to live out God's love in a world that needs joy.

All people: Amen.

PRAISE HYMN

Gloria Patri

Blue Chalice Hymnal, #35

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations

Blue Chalice Hymnal, #668

HEBREW READING

Exodus 20:1-17

GOSPEL READING

John 2:13-22

SERMON

Rev. Laura Baker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

Chimes Choir

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God has given us all that is good and right and true. What a joy to share these gifts in the life of this community and far beyond our own reach. With a prayer of gratitude and joyful eagerness, let us return to God an offering and a re-commitment of our time, talent, and money.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

OFFERING RESPONSE

Accept, O God, the Gifts

Blue Chalice Hymnal, #379

(Tune: Ellacombe)

Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay.

Transform them into blessings on those we serve today.

Rekindle deep within us all passion to fulfill

The ministry disciples have, empowered to do your will.

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: God of Grace, multiply these tithes and offerings so that this church's ministry and mission radically change lives and create new opportunities to share the Gospel. We pray that these gifts may help all of your children build a temple within their own body that brings honor and praise to you. In the name of Jesus who went to Calvary, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

Be Now My Vision

Blue Chalice Hymnal, #595