



United in Christ: Hope Now! Hope Always!

“Wait, Israel, for God! Wait with hope! Hope now! Hope always! Psalm 131:3

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones Lay Ministry Administrator: Jenny Hoffman

Preacher: Scott Geister-Jones

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz Soloist: Kyla Betts

Lector: Diane Matson (8:00 a.m.) Moses Harris (9:15 a.m.)

Usher: Jeff Morgan (8:00 a.m.)

Tune your radio to FM 87.9 Technical Support: Thomas Lehr

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah’s family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days” Davisson/Porter

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen.

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Fountain of living water,

C: **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**

Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen

P: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus

C: Amen.

HYMN: "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" #319 ELW

**Vs. 1: O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.**

**Vs. 2: You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust in God's eternal word.**

**Vs. 3: Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.**

**Vs. 4: Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

LITANY FOR LENT

P: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" #338 ELW vs. 1 & 2

**Vs. 1: Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.**

**Vs. 2: Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.**

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**ANTHEM: "I Know De Lord's Laid His Hands On Me" Harry T. Burleigh* See
Footnote**

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

⁸⁻¹¹ Then God spoke to Noah and his sons: "I'm setting up my covenant with you including your children who will come after you, along with everything alive around you—birds, farm animals, wild animals—that came out of the ship with you. I'm setting up my covenant with you that never again will everything living be destroyed by floodwaters; no, never again will a flood destroy the Earth."

¹²⁻¹⁶ God continued, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and everything living around you and everyone living after you. I'm putting my rainbow in the clouds, a sign of the covenant between me and the Earth. From now on, when I form a cloud over the Earth and the rainbow appears in the cloud,

I'll remember my covenant between me and you and everything living, that never again will floodwaters destroy all life. When the rainbow appears in the cloud, I'll see it and remember the eternal covenant between God and everything living, every last living creature on Earth." ¹⁷ And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I've set up between me and everything living on the Earth."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE: "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" #337 ELW vs. 1

Vs. 1: Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my sov'reign die?

Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

⁹⁻¹¹ At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life." ¹²⁻¹³ At once, this same Spirit pushed Jesus out into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by Satan. Wild animals were his companions, and angels took care of him. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN: "Thy Holy Wings" #613 ELW

**Vs. 1: Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.**

**Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.**

**Vs. 2: Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.**

**Vs. 3: Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.**

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESION

P: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

Honk your horn 3 times after each petition

P: In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists,

conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

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 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

ANOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

P: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works,

chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor,
God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing. In the name of the holy and
life-giving Trinity.

C: Amen.

Honk your horns one last time.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN: “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” #325 ELW

**Vs. 1: I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**Vs. 2: In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**Vs. 3: When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

POSTLUDE: “Deep River” set by Burleigh

Footnote: Harry Thacker Burleigh was born in Erie, PA in 1866. His mother was the daughter of a slave who was discarded when he became blind. His grandfather used to sing spirituals to Harry. After high school, Harry's beautiful baritone voice helped him become well established as a singer in the Episcopal Church in Erie. With donations from local music lovers and a scholarship he was able to go to New York to study at the National Conservatory of Music. While there he played double bass and tympani in the conservatory orchestra where he met Anton Dvorak. During this time Burleigh sang the old spirituals for Dvorak such as “Sing Low Sweet Chariot” which is mirrored in the first movement of Dvorak's New World Symphony. Burleigh became a linguist, singing in Hebrew as well as Latin, Italian, French and German. In 1917 friends encourage him to arrange and publish “Deep River” which made him know as a composer. As a music editor for a New York music publishing company he traveled to Italy in the summers to work. While there he coached many famous singers including Caruso and Paul Roberson.