

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

February 21, 2021

PRELUDE

“Eventide”

Archer

WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of the covenant, God does not remember us according to our sins.

God remembers us by God's own steadfast love.

The God of our salvation leads us in paths of righteousness.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.

We put our trust in God and come before the Lord to worship.

HYMN

“O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer”
(verses 1-3)

No. 223

1 O my soul, bless your Redeemer;
All within me, bless God's Name;
Bless the Savior, and forget not
All God's mercies to proclaim;

2 God forgives all your transgressions,
All diseases gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction,
And with you so kindly deals.

3 Far as east from west is distant,
God has put away our sin;
Like the pity of a father
Has the Lord's compassion been.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God's bow has been hung in the clouds — a unilateral disarmament in spite of our sin. God remains faithful to the covenant of steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful. Without fear, then, we confess our sins.

*The flower arrangement is In Loving Memory of Barbara Bull,
given by her family.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We fail to live according to your ways, and are trapped in our own anxiety. We live in systems of violence and injustice, and use power at the expense of others.

Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted away from your paths. Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil and turn us to your kingdom. Remember your covenant, and be for us an ark of safety and new life. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood onto dry ground, so in baptismal waters we are brought from death into new life. Jesus, who is at the right hand of God, forgives us and reconciles all things in heaven and on earth.

Thanks be to God.

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

Because we believe that in Jesus, God's time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near, we respond with our gifts, and bear witness to the good news of the gospel.

The Offering plate is in the Narthex. You may also choose to mail your offering to the church office, or give online through our website, cazpres.org.

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND ILLUMINATION

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, receive these offerings, and use them for your own good purposes in the church and in all creation.

And as we prepare to hear the reading of scripture, we know that we need your sustaining word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, proclaim the good news among us today so that we may turn and believe, and see anew how the time is fulfilled and the kingdom has come near; in Jesus our Savior. Amen.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;^[a] with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news^[b] of God,^[c] ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;^[d] repent, and believe in the good news."^[e]

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 9:8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.^[a] ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every

living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

SERMON "A Covenant With Every Living Creature"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" No. 81

1 Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins,
And close by Thee to stay.

2 As Thou with Satan didst contend,
And didst the victory win,
O give us strength in Thee to fight,
In Thee to conquer sin.

3 And through these days of penitence,
And through Thy Passiontide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.

4 Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering over-past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "O Rest in The Lord" Mendelssohn