

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

February 28, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those who delight in God's commands.

They will shine as lights in the darkness.

It is well with those who deal generously, who love justice.

They are not afraid of evil tidings. Their hearts are firm.

They have shared freely; they have given to the poor

Their righteousness endures forever.

Let us lift our hearts and voices in worship.

HYMN

"The God of Abraham Praise"
(verses 1 & 3)

No. 488

1 The God of Abraham praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days,
The God of Love!
The Lord, the great I Am,
By earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before Your holy name,
Forever blest.

3 You have eternal life
Implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay,
While ages roll.
We praise You, living God!
We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought,
And still the same!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in God's promise of salvation, let us confess our sin and repent.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not been whole-hearted in our faith. We claim to follow Jesus but are afraid of what we may have to sacrifice. We want to be disciples, but try to assure our safety before we step out. We affirm the virtue of self-denial, but still we seek earthly gain.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for sincere repentance, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSON

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: God created us for abundant life in Christ. God is gracious and merciful, and does not count our sin against us. In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

What will it profit us to gain the whole world and forfeit our life? With all humility let us make our offering to God, trusting not in worldly gain, but in God's sustaining grace.

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

Almighty God, we thank you for the covenant you established with Abraham and Sarah, a covenant for all families of the earth. Accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives, that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love and a testament to your enduring promise.

Now, O Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive your Word, reveal to us the good news, and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ. Amen.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,^a will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words^b in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty;^a walk before me, and be blameless. **2** And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." **3** Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, **4** "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. **5** No longer shall your name be Abram,^b but your name shall be Abraham;^c for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. **6** I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will

make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring^d after you. **15** God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. **16** I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

SERMON "Our Common Ancestor"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN "What Wondrous Love Is This" No. 85

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the *heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the *heavy cross for my soul!

2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And through eternity I'll sing on.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE " "