

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent



Noah's Ark Icon, Natalia Ermakova, 20th Century

We are filled with joy at your presence and hope you experience God's Spirit as you worship and meet with those around you. If you would like more information about RPC, please talk with any Session member or the Pastor.

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Bold Letters -- Indicate congregational response

GATHERING

Invocation

Lord, Prepare Me

#701

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.**

Welcome

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

#423 (v.1)

**¹ Create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Silence is kept for personal confession

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, God in your Kindness
In your compassion blot out my offense
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin

My offenses truly I know them
my sin is always before me
against you, you alone, have I sinned
what is evil in your sight I have done

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervor sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Silence is kept for personal confession

Lo I am with You

Lo, I am with you til the end of the world

THE WORD

A Time with the Children

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

Lay Leader: Aimee Ranaivoarijaona

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. 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.”

Thanks be to God.

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; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness for 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 of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rainbow and the Wilderness

Lenten Response

Stay with Me

#204

Stay with me; remain here with me;
watch and pray.
Watch and pray.

RESPONDING

Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

#606

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of compassion,
we praise you that you look upon our delicate lives
with love and understanding,
and that you desire for us all
new life in Jesus Christ.
We are overwhelmed by your love,
which goes to the cross,
endures the grave,
and leads us to new life.
By your Spirit,
strengthen our souls
to be brave and bold in Christ's service.
Take our offerings,
and use them and us for your purposes,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
our crucified and risen Lord.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God

#851

Come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God,
for Jesus will never say no.

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

SENDING

Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Sending Hymn

Lord, Prepare Me

#701

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.**

Blessing and Charge

**May the Spirit of the triune God
strengthen and sustain you,
all throughout these forty days
and into the life that is to come.**

**Go in peace,
proclaiming the message of reconciliation
God has entrusted to us.**

**Thanks be to God,
Amen.**

Response

Be Still and Know That I Am God

#414

**Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.**

Postlude