

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Keith Haring, Life of Christ, 1990

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 Jesus, You Shall Be My Song* **#737 (vs 1,2)**

1 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

2 Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

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

Numbers 21:4-9

Lay Leader: Mary Ann Eull

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 3:14-21

¹⁴"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness

rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

May Not Perish

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 Jesus, You Shall Be My Song***#737 (vs. 3,4)**

3 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

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