

Order of Worship

1st Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025



Gathering and Welcome *It is Well with My Soul*

Prelude *Poor Wayfaring Stranger* – American Folk Tune Jessye Whitis, pianist

***Opening Sentences**

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
say to the Lord:

**My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.**

For God will protect us from evil
and commands angels to guard us in all our ways.

**God rescues those who love God
and is present with us in trouble.**

God answers when we cry out
and reveals our salvation to us.

Let us worship God!

***Hymn # 475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

***Prayer of the Day**

Mighty God,
you heard the cries of your people
and rescued them from the hand of their oppressors.
You cared for them in the wilderness.
In the life of Christ,
you experienced that wilderness yourself.
As we journey through our own wilderness,
we give thanks that your Spirit sustains us
and your love guides us. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

At the baptismal font:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of ancient covenants,
who never breaks trust,
we thank you for baptismal waters
that pour out your steadfast love
for all creation.

Thank you for the salvation promise
you have kept.

In the name of Jesus,
the Living Water, we pray. **Amen.**

Confession and Pardon

At the baptismal font:

The journey of life inevitably leads to wilderness,
times marked by guilt, frustration,
and the sense that we are not in the right place.
But even in the wilderness, God is with us.
Even in the wilderness, God's mercy is sure.

**As Lent unfolds before us, great God,
we see how far we have to go to Jerusalem.**

**The road is long, our sins are many,
and our burdens are heavy.**

**We can't imagine new life, Easter life,
because our current lives are filled
with bad choices and failed efforts.**

Meet us in our weakness.

Take up our sins.

Ease our burdens.

Carry us on the way.

Bring us to Jerusalem, at last.

**Show us a love that is stronger than death,
a love no tomb can hold.**

Lifting water from the font:

Walking this earth,
facing temptation,
defeating sin,
Jesus has done for us
what we could never do for ourselves.
This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

— Word —

Prayer for Illumination

O Lord of light and salvation,
let these words of Scripture
live not only in our mouths,
but in our hearts,
that we will embody your truth
and confess with our lives
that Jesus is Lord. Amen.

Scriptures: Romans 10:8b–13: Luke 4:1–13

Sermon *When Climbing Jacob's Ladder, Don't Look Down*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

Ascription of Praise

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
we bend our knees and lift up our hearts,
giving glory to God forever. **Amen.** (Philippians 2:9–11)

Hymn # 695 *Change My Heart, O God

***Affirmation of Faith** (*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.21*)

**The reconciling work of Jesus
was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.
His cross and resurrection become personal crisis
and present hope for women and men
when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.
In this experience,
the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all,
moves people to respond in faith,
repentance, and obedience,
and initiates the new life in Christ.**

Call for offering

Jesus draws us from the margins into a great feast; he draws us out of a crowd, to healing; he draws us from death to new life. Each day, God finds the way that we need to be loved and challenged, and then calls us to minister to others in warm hospitality, healing mercies, and the promise of resurrection and new life. We respond to this marvelous call through our giving this day. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Offertory *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone* – arr. Cindy Berry

Jessye Whitis, pianist

***Doxology #606** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Prayer of Dedication

O God who gathers more, and still more, people to your table —
a table that is not contained by our one church, but extends
across varied worship spaces, across diverse cultures and communities —
bless the gifts that each of us brings today.

May they strengthen bodies and nourish spirits,
and be used for your glory.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus
as we pray for the world he came to save, saying:

Have mercy, O God; hear our prayer.

We pray for the church . . .

Help us to confess with our lips,
believe in our hearts, and show in our lives
that Christ Jesus is our risen Lord.

Have mercy, O God; hear our prayer.

We pray for the world . . .

Let the milk and honey of your promised land
flow in every nation of the earth,
so that all may enjoy the fruit of salvation.

Have mercy, O God; hear our prayer.

We pray for this community . . .

Let us be angels of your mercy,
surrounding all who are in danger
and lifting up those who are falling.

Have mercy, O God; hear our prayer.

We pray for loved ones . . .

Deliver and protect them,
be with them in their trouble,
and satisfy them with long life.

Have mercy, O God; hear our prayer.

As we pour out our hearts in prayer, O God,
lead us to pour out our lives in service to you—
ever seeking your will, ever following your way;

all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
who taught us to pray, “**Our Father...**”
Amen.

— **Sending** —

Hymn # 213 *In the Cross of Christ, I Glory

Blessing and Charge

Put away the past.
God is about to do a new thing!
God makes a way where there is no way!
God carves a path through the wilderness
and sends angels to guard and guide us. **Amen.**

Having been reconciled to God,
we are now agents of God’s righteousness
and ambassadors for Christ.
Live boldly, for Christ welcomes sinners
and makes all things new. **Amen.**

Postlude *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

Jessye Whitis, pianist