

Sunday, February 18, 2024,
We Gather to Celebrate God's Presence

Welcome

Family Life and Work

Family Celebrations

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

The Christ Candle.....acceptance that changed the world.

"Blessed be his name and his light" congregational response

Acknowledgment of the Land:

At this time of Lent....are our Sisters and Brothers.

We seek to correct the errors of the past and walk arm and arm into the future as Children of a Universal God.

We are bound on this land by the relationships we build with one another,

Let us work with strength renewed, commitment in common, and assurance grounded in hope for all.

It is in this plan of love for one another, that we find the way to live, to work and to thrive.

And together we say as one....AMEN

Introit: Way-Maker

(originally by Sinach)

CHORUS:

**You are here, moving in our midst
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, working in this place
I worship You, I worship You. (REPEAT)**

VERSE:

You are...

**Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper
Light in the darkness, my God
That is who You are. (REPEAT)**

CHORUS:

**You are here, touching every heart
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, healing every heart
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, turning lives around
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, mending every heart
I worship You, I worship You.**

Call to Worship (responsive) – Let us Pray

Today, IS the first day of the rest of our lives, it is the beauty of God's grace to us,

And so we call each other from the fields, the factories, the schools, and the highways, to come and join in a celebration of faith.

A celebration of hope in the midst of a troubled world.

An understanding of the reality that we see has challenges at every turn,
And yet our faith remains secure.

Our faith remains a foundation on which we build our future,

A foundation on which we go forward each day. And as we ask God's infinite patience and forgiveness for the missteps we made along the way.

We are comforted that God's love knows no limits and we are nourished by love and grace.

Let us prepare our hearts to receive that love and grace.

In the name of Love, the great example who showed us the way. AMEN

Opening Hymn: River

MV 3

**"River, rush-a-down to the ocean blue,
River, from a mountain high.
River, as you do what rivers do,
River, draw the Spirit nigh.**

**Spirit, come-a-down to the riverside,
Spirit, spark of wondrous thought.
Spirit, I am free for you to guide,
Spirit, pray that I be taught!**

**Water, let me drink of your healing pow'r,
Water, strength and life you give.
Water, as I travel with each hour,
Water, help my body live.**

**River, flow-a-down where you ran before,
River, source of clearer view.
River, as I walk your rocky shore,
River, see my journey through.
See my journey through**

Prayer of Approach: Leaders Prayer....and together we pray the prayer Jesus taught us

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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 trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

Children's Time: A Rainbow for all Time

We Listen

Minute for Mission – Jan Drinkill

Gradual Hymn: When We Are Tempted to Deny Your Son

VU 119

- 1 When we are tempted to deny your Son,
because we fear the anger of the world,
and we are few who bear the insults hurled,
your will, O God, be done.**
- 2 When we are tempted to betray your Son,
because he leads us in a harder way,
and makes demands we do not want to pay,
your will, O God, be done.**
- 3 When we forget the cross that held your Son,
and would avoid the burden of this life,
the cry for justice and an end to strife,
your will, O God, be done.**
- 4 When doubt obscures the victory of your Son,
and faith is weak and all resolve has fled,
help us to know him risen from the dead:
your will, O God, be done.**

Lectionary Text: Genesis 9: 8 – 17, 1Peter 3: 18 – 22

Sermon: First Sunday of Lent "God's Gift of Water"

We Respond

Musical Offering: Kyrie for Our Time

Don Besig and Nancy Price

Offertory Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

VU 541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication: response

Lent. The very wordgiving that we sometimes forget.

Let Us Pray

Holy One we offer to you and this community of faith three special gifts.

The gift of Prayer, the gift of Fasting, and the gift of Almsgiving.

We offer up Prayer in conversation with you as we do the simple things in life.

Walking the dog, driving to work, walking home from school. We think of you each time we give you this gift of prayer.

We offer up the gift of fasting, not of special treats, but healthy choices,

Cutting back on portion size, sugar content or even adding fruit and veggies.

We offer up the gift of Almsgiving,

Not just money, but gifts of our time and talents. Helping others. Shoveling a senior's walkway or painting a picture for a shut-in.

This is a time for deeper thinking about what it means to have a faith.

Let us all think deeper thoughts about the challenge to be the example others seek to emulate.

It is a joy to give, for it is truly in giving that we receive.

Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Closing Hymn: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

VU 108 vs 1 - 4

- 1 Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.**
- 2 The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.**
- 3 We bear the silence, cross and pain**

**of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of Life.**

**4 And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on through
Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.**

Benedictions and Commissioning

Choral Benediction: Go Now in Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen**