

An Order for the Worship of God

February 21, 2021

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome & Announcements

Candle Lighting and Prelude

*Please stand, if able

* Call to Worship: based on xxx (Liturgist – Congregation)

The same God who sent the flood also gives the rainbow.

The same water that washes the world of sin also refracts the colors of heaven.

The same Christ who died for us is also now alive in the Spirit.

The same Spirit that drove Jesus into the desert also sees us through our temptation.

The ways of God are the ways of steadfast love and faithfulness.

Let us seek God's ways with worship and discipline, for in living the ways of God, there are many wonderful rewards.

*Opening Hymn: #173 v. 1-3 Lord, Who Throughout These 40 days

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Creator God, you are our life, our means of redemption, our hope for the future. You anticipate all our deepest needs, and you have prepared the way for us to follow. Yet that way leads us to the cross upon which Jesus died for our sake, and to the cross which each of us must bear for your sake. Give us strength and courage to preserve through this season of cross-bearing, that we might keep the faith until you come to take us home. Let us now lift up the prayer that Jesus taught us, Our Father (debt/ debtors)

Call to Confession

Jesus temptation in the wilderness means, for us, a time of cleansing, a season of confession. The wilderness is the proving ground of our honesty. Let us honestly confess to God that we participate in the sin of the world, the collective sin for which Jesus died, thereby owning our need to be forgiven. Please take a few moments for silent reflection.

Moment of Confession

Holy God, by the waters of the flood, by the waters of baptism, you drown the ways of evil in this world. By the testing of Jesus in the desert, you show us that you prevail over the tempter. Yet we have failed to fully trust the guidance of your Spirit in our own lonely, desert times. Thus, evil persists in the world by our own fault, fear, and anxiety. Forgive us, God, and renew our faith, courage, and hope, that our obedience to you might demonstrate your glory to the world, in Jesus' name. Amen

Words of Assurance

The good news of Jesus Christ is this: that the risen Christ himself prays for us, and that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are of the same mind, the same grace, and the same purpose. Friends know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Old Testament Reading: **Genesis 9:8-17**

New Testament Reading: **1 Peter 3:18-22**

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thank be to God.

*Gloria Patri: #558 (Pilgrim)

Gospel Reading: **MARK 1:9-15**

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: May the reading and the hearing of Your word inform our minds, comfort our souls and guide our feet.

Sermon

*Responsive Hymn: Insert O Love How Deep

Congregational Prayer

Call for the Offering:

Psalm 25:10 reminds us,

“All the paths of God are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.”

Our church's ministries are extensions of God's love and faithfulness made possible through the generous giving of our time, energy, and

