

Wednesday March 10, 2021



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Outline is on our website
- Theme this week: Again and Again God loves first
- Easter Garden flowers
- Phase 2 – Started March 8

CALL TO WORSHIP

Before we were born, Before we took our first breath, Before the week started, Before the year started, Before we said, “I love you,” Before we said, “I’m sorry,” Before we figured out who we really are, Before we figured out who we want to be, One: Before it all—God loved us. Unconditionally and freely, Fully and honestly— God loved us. Again and again, this is where our story begins. Let us worship God!

POEM:

HOLD

If you hold a newborn in your arms, All at once you will understand,
The crook of your elbow and the cup of your palm as never before —
Ordinary curves of the body Transformed into a resting space. You were designed for love. And if you’re lucky enough to hold a newborn in your arms, and that newborn curls its tiny fingers around yours, making your hands look like the hands of a giant—
Then time might stand still, and those around you might point and say, “Look! That little one is holding you back.”

And in that moment, if you pay attention, you will catch a glimpse of the circle that love was meant to be. God is love, our resting place.

With small hands,

We hold back.

SCRIPTURE: John 3:16-17

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

SONG: God Loved the World ELW 323, v.1,2,5

God Loved the World



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

We believe God is love— Unconditional, constant love.

We believe this love exists for all, Choosing each and every one of us, Day after day
Again and again and again.

We believe that God's love is like a river. Rivers cannot help but flow toward the sea; God's love
cannot help but move toward us. We are swimming in it.

We believe that God loved first. We believe that God breathed life into dust. We believe that God said, "This is good," And because we believe that God loved first, We strive to build lives that reflect God's love. May we begin again here. Amen.

PRAYER:

God of wide arms,
Sometimes we feel scattered, a little like an outcast, a little too familiar with the edge. We are reminded that you loved THE WORLD- Which includes ALL OF US.
We long for you to gather us up and pull us together into community, into you. For you are the God of The world. You are the God of the edge. For that, We are eternally grateful. Amen.

SENDING:

God of open doors,
Open arms,
And open conversations,
We know
Deep in our souls
That you are forever inviting us in.
Again and again,
You invite us to take another step closer,
Another step deeper,
Another step further,
In this journey of faith.
So with your invitation in our hands,
We pray for strength and wisdom.
Show us the next right step in this journey.
We are here.
You are here.
This is holy ground.
May this holy Lenten journey begin
Once again.
Gratefully we pray, **Amen.**