



***Worship Theme:***

*Being the Church of Grace for the People who will be Grace*

**PRELUDE** - Chorale Prelude on the tune 'St. Bride' – Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The pathway is just beginning.

**People: We have encountered the wilderness.**

Leader: Now we are moving rapidly toward Jerusalem.

**People: Along the way we will witness astonishing acts of mercy and justice.**

Leader: Lord, be with us on the journey.

**People: Guide our lives and our steps, we pray. Amen.**

## **HYMN – The God of Abraham Praise**

1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above; Ancient of Everlasting Days, and God of love; Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and heaven confessed; I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

2. The great I AM has sworn; I on this oath depend. I shall, on eagle wings up-borne, to heaven ascend. I shall behold God's face; I shall God's power adore, and sing the wonders of God's grace forevermore.

3. The heavenly land I see, with peace and plenty blest; a land of sacred liberty, and endless rest. There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound, and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

4. The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing, and "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King! Who was, and is, the same, and evermore shall be: Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM, we worship thee!"

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Lord of presence and power, be with us on this second step of our Lenten journey to the Cross. Help us to make a commitment of our lives, our spirits, our hearts to ministry in your name. Amen.

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, #881 The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\*\* church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **GLORIA PATRI, #70**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

## **HYMN – My Son is Love Unknown**

1. My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be. O who am I, that for my sake my God should take frail flesh and die? My God should take frail flesh and die?

2. God left the richest throne salvation to bestow; but Christ as flesh and bone the world refused to know. But, O my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need did life expend; who at my need did life expend.

3. Sometimes they threw sown palms and sweetest praises sang. Hosannas and glad psalms through streets and markets rang. Then "Crucify!" is all their breath, for blood and death they thirst and cry; for blood and death they thirst and cry.

4. What has my Sovereign done? What makes this rage and spite? Christ gave new strength to run, restored the gift of sight. Sweet injuries! Yet they at these themselves displease, and 'gainst Christ rise; themselves displease, and 'gainst Christ rise.

5. I sing my plain belief, one song my heart outpours: never was pain nor grief, never was love like yours. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend; I all my days could gladly spend.

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **The 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 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, forever. Amen.*

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

## **PSALM LESSON Psalm 22:22-30**

Praise the Lord, you that fear him;

stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them;

but when they cry to him he hears them.

My praise is of him in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:

"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord;  
he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him;  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn  
the saving deeds that he has done.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## **EPISTLE LESSON Romans 4:13-25**

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## **HYMN – Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land; a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noon-tide heat, and the burden of the day.

2. Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me; and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess: the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

3. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

## **GOSPEL LESSON Mark 8:27-38**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**Pastor:** This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**SERMON** “Losing and Finding”

Pastor Margaret Clemons

## **CLOSING HYMN – The Church of Christ, In Every Age**

1. The church of Christ, in every age beset by change but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.
2. Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live until they die.
3. Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.
4. For he alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood, and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.
5. We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord, to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.

## **BENEDICTION**

*The step of discipleship requires commitment and faith.  
Go now in peace, bringing the good news of Jesus' love to all people.  
Do not be afraid. God is with you. **Amen.***

## **POSTLUDE – 'If You Will Trust in God for Guidance' – Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**

