

FEBRUARY 28th, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: With great love, God brought the world into being and gave us life.

People: But we did not love God in return, so God sent Jesus into the world to show us how.

Pastor: Still we resisted God's love, and Christ willingly experienced the cross of human suffering in hopes that we would finally understand.

Many: Jesus experienced such priceless, painful giving, and did it for love, to show us a different kind of living in which losing ourselves for God and others is the only way to gain our lives.

One: Let us worship the Lord

HYMN #275 *Dear Lord, Who Loves All Humankind (vs. 1-3)*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Ever-present God, come close to us now, we pray, and help us come close to you as, for a fraction of time, we step back from the activities of the day and focus our hearts and minds on you alone. May we treasure such moments with you: moments when we can bring to you the things we are doing, and find new meaning for them and new strength for doing them. Remind us how everything you do is out of love, and you express your love for us in the stuff of daily living, in our engagement with others, and even when our faith is tested. Receive our worship and praise now, dear Lord, and enable us to transform our love for you into concrete action. And if, as the day goes on, we forget you, we pray that you will not forget us. We ask these things in the name of Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray like this, saying:

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and Mark 8:31-38

SERMON MESSAGE: *He Did It for Love* Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Our relationship with you, loving God, is everything we need in life. We do not want to gain the whole world; instead, for the sake of love, we want to share the small piece of the world we already have with others. So bless our offerings, we pray, and use them to accomplish the work you would have us do. Lead us, by this giving of our money, to even greater giving that can meet the needs of those around us. May our ministry to our neighbors bear good fruit as we labor to make your presence known to all. Amen.

HYMN #386 *We Are One in the Spirit*

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: May the everlasting God shield you, east and west and wherever you go.

People: The protection of the God of life be with us.

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ rest on you today, tomorrow and always.

People: The grace of the Christ of love rest on us.

Pastor: May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you as you make your way through life's challenges.

People: The power of the Spirit of life fill us.

Pastor: Go in peace to serve the Lord, and in everything you do, strive to do it in love.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL