

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service on the First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

Prelude: A Song of Peace – Matt Schinske

Call to Worship

From water to wilderness:

**God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

On stone and in hearts:

**God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

**God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

for where he is, we would be also.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession.
We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own.
We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use
power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us,
we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you
set before us.**

**Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil in its many
guises,
and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. In covenantal love,
remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an
ark of safety and new life. (pause for a time of silent confession...) In
Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hymn: The Glory Of These Forty Days

Prayers of the People

Psalm Reading: Psalm 25

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**

**⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.**

⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

**⁸Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

**⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.**

**¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

Special Music: As the Deer

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:9-15

Sermon: Water and Wilderness

Affirmation of Faith (from Confession of 1967, 9.31)

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.

Hymn: O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: In Heavenly Love Abiding – Penny Rodriguez

Questions for Reflection

The phrase “kingdom of God” occurs fourteen times in the Gospel of Mark. Though Jesus is described at the Gospel’s opening as being “from Nazareth of Galilee” (Mark 1:9), at Jesus’ baptism it becomes clear whence he comes and to whom he belongs. Jesus is God’s beloved Son, and his baptism signals the only realm to which he owes allegiance. His baptism, then, not only is a religious act, but also is a political and economic one. In what ways does your baptism into Christ make claims on your political, social, and economic practices as well as your religious practices?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of ancient covenants,
your steadfast love and faithfulness
are still new every morning.
I thank you that I can begin this day
in the confidence of your abiding love and unending mercy.
Help me to treat others—
family, friends,
coworkers, classmates,
and even strangers—
with love and mercy in our encounters today.
When I disappoint or am discordant,
help me to show love to others.
Open my eyes to the places, people, and circumstances
in which your kingdom has come near.
I pray in the name of your beloved Son,
Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of peace,
as the day draws to a close
and the evening draws in around me,
I think of the creatures of the earth
that also seek rest in the hours of the night.
You love them even as you love me,
and your covenant faithfulness covers all of us.
So, with the birds of the air,
the beasts of the field,
and the tiny ones who burrow in the ground,
I offer you all thanks and praise:
for your unending goodness;
for the beauty of our home, the earth;
for your gift of life instead of a deserved destruction.
As your colorful bow now rests in the clouds,

so may we color the earth with the ways of peace
until all creation rests with you in completeness.
In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music performed by Lorie Francis, Mary Kwantes, and Jeff Sandquist. Worship led by Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley. Portions of the service drawn from the PC(USA) Book of Common Worship, used by permission.