

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

February 28, 2021

Prelude: *Fairest Lord Jesus* – arr. Jonathan W. Lee.

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.

Christ died for our trespasses but was raised for our justification.

Thanks be to God.

Call to Confession

Trusting in God's promise of salvation, let us confess our sin and repent.

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not been sincere Christians.
We claim to follow Jesus
but have not taken his path of sacrificial love.
We profess to be disciples,
but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.
We affirm the virtue of self-denial,
but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for sincere repentance
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news:
God deems as righteous all who trust that Jesus
has been raised from the dead for our salvation.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's promises,
let us pray for the world and for our needs, saying,
Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Hymn: *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

Epistle Lesson: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:31-38

Sermon: Some Identification Please

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: *Will You Come and Follow Me*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: *O Come and Sing Unto the Lord* – Garrett Parker

Questions for Reflection

Jesus asks his disciples to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him. How do you practice self-denial for the sake of the gospel? Is every instance of self-denial an act of obedience to Jesus? Can some forms of self-denial foster oppression?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus,
help me walk with you this day.
If you lead me where I fear to go,
give me courage and keep me true,
that I may bear my cross without shame
and live in the promise of life eternal. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Jesus, if I stray,
show me my fault,
forgive my sin,
and set me rightly on your path.
Keep me on the way of the cross,
and lead me to the eternal joy of Easter. 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.