Service of Worship  March 14, 2021  10:00am
4th Sunday In Lent

Gathering

PRELUDE  “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
Linda Dover, organ

arr. Robert Lau

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (spoken together)

We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.
We need not look up to find God, we need only to look around:
within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.
We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,
we need only listen to the music of life,
the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.
We worship the God who inhabits our world and who indwells our lives.
The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
2 Your spirit still flows free, high singing where it will.
3 Your good-ly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
4 You have eternal life implanted in the soul;

the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,
Established is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:

we bow before your holy name, forever blest.
Deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.
And trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the Yigdal, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

TEXT: Moses Maimonides, 12th cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dayan, 1404; stanzas 1, 3; trans. Thomas Olivers, c.1770, alt.: LEONI

MUSIC: Jewish melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770
A TIME WITH STEWART

PRAYER FOR REFLECTION (video)

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you and all others!

HYMN 777

“How Long, O Lord”

LAMENT AND LONGING FOR HEALING

How Long, O Lord
(Psalm 13)

1 How long, O Lord, will you forget an answer to my prayer?
2 How long, O Lord, will you forsake and leave me in this way?
3 How long, O Lord? But you for-give with mer-cy from a

F A7 Dm Gm Dm Gm

C7 F Em A7 Dm

turned away from me; I wrestle with despair!
overwhelmed with grief, by evil night and day!
praise you and to trust in your un-fail-ing love!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This paraphrase of Psalm 13 convincingly captures the psalm’s initial sense of self-centered desperation. Then, like sunlight breaking through clouds of despair, this mood is suddenly dispelled by an awareness of God’s mercy and love, which is so much greater than we can imagine.

TEXT: Barbara Wootcott, 1990
MUSIC: Christopher Norton, 1990
Text © 1990 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

HOW LONG, O LORD
B.6.B.6.6
GOSPEL LESSON  
John 3:14–21  
(Common English Bible)
Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him isn’t judged; whoever doesn’t believe in him is already judged, because they don’t believe in the name of God’s only Son. “This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. All who do wicked things hate the light and don’t come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God.”

SUNG SCRIPTURE  
“God So Loved the World”  
Music by John Stainer  
Chancel Singers I  
Liz Chandler, Terri Monrad, Sue Trigger, Connie Richards, Gene Wilson, Mitch Trigger, and Joe Hoffman  
(See text from above Scripture)

SERMON  
“Promises in the Dark”  
Rev. Mitch Trigger

SUNG RESPONSE  
“Abide With Me”  
arr. Molly Ijames  
Chancel Singers III  
Words by Henry F. Lyte
Abide with me, fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens;  
Lord, with me abide! When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence ev’ry passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter’s pow’r?  
Who, like thy self, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine O abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heav’n’s morning breaks and earth’s vain shadows flee,  
in life, in death, abide O Lord with me. Amen.
A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN 177  “I Will Come to You”  YOU ARE MINE
(Solos on verses; All Refrain)
I Will Come to You
You Are Mine

177

Leader or All

A

D

A

E

F\#m

D

E\#sus

E

I will come to you in the silence;
I will lift you from all your fear.
I will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice.
I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I

D

E\#sus

A

E\#sus

E

D

E\#sus

E

E

E

I am hope for all who are hopeless;
I am eyes for all who long to see.
I am the peace the world can not give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand still and know I am here.
Come and rest in me. All will know my name. You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice.

E\#sus

A

D

E\#sus

E

E

E

I am the Word that leads all to freedom;
(2) In the heal ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand still and know I am here.
Come and rest in me. All will know my name. You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice.

E\#sus

A

D

E\#sus

E

E

E

I am strength for all the despairing;
I am the peace the world can not give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand still and know I am here.

E\#sus

A

D

E\#sus

E

E

E

Presuming to speak in the voice of God, as this song does, can only be done with integrity if the singers understand their words as an expression of what they believe about God's nature and God's intentions. It is an occasion for affirming faith, not for wishful thinking.

TEXT and MUSIC: David Haas, 1991
You Are Mine
Irregular
CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Christa, Du Lamm Gottes”

(Jamb of God, Our Savior)

Linda Dover, organ

J.S. Bach

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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