

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT March 3, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.

Words of Welcome Rev. R.C. Griffin

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

Many: The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.
One: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

Many: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

One: The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

All: They are more desirable than gold and sweeter than honey.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn (#20)

All Things Bright and Beautiful

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

*Call to Confession Rev. Amanda Horan

*Prayer of Confession

God of righteousness, we confess that have not kept your commandments. We bow down before idols, declaring our allegiance to other powers and principalities. We take your name in vain, using it to justify our own prejudices and opinions. We do not make adequate time to rest and remember your goodness, nor to revel in the delight of family and friends. We look the other way in the face of violence and oppression, misogyny and sexual assault, land grabs and unjust economic practices. Our dishonesty and greed get the better of us. Yet you gave us commandments not for condemnation, but so that we might live in justice and joy. Purify us by your righteousness and enfold us in your grace. Sanctify our intentions and actions, that our lives may begin to reflect your Beloved Community.

*Sung Reflection (#576, sing 2x followed by silence)

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy on us.

*Responsive Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear these words from the Apostle Paul, "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength."

The grace of Christ is sufficient for us.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*Congregational Response (#447)

We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson John 2:13-22

(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Many: Thanks be to God.)

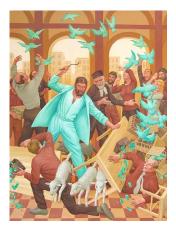
^{*}Sharing a Sign of Christ's Peace

Anthem

Second Scripture Lesson Exodus 20:1-17

(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Many: Thanks be to God.)

Sermon Rev. R.C. Griffin



WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

Capital Campaign Commissioning

*Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from The Confession of 1967

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes our natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. God wills that God's purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ, and all evil be banished from God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

*Hymn (#5)

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Karolen Bowman

*Congregational Response (#607, alt. tune #606)

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Responsive Prayer of Dedication

One: O Lord our God, we want to follow all your commandments—

All: To love only you, not worshiping the things of this world; to love our neighbor freely, not desiring for ourselves something they possess. Accept these offerings, we pray, and teach us to be generous, giving fully of ourselves that we may truly be the body of Christ in this world. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Hymn (#432)

How Clear Is Our Vocation Lord

*Charge & Benediction

*Postlude

*Please rise, in body or spirit.





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One of a series of hymnis the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed, this text (originally in seven stanzas) expands "Maker of heaven and earth". The first stanza became the retrain when the text was later set to a popular tone from the age of Fing Charles III.



TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: Swee Hong Lim, 1990

Music © 1990 Swee Hong Lim (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik)

SINGAPURA

447

We Are Forgiven



To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995 Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson WE ARE FORGIVEN 10.8.10.8



Despite the great sweep of these stanzas, each one ends by describing how our human condition needs God's help: formless, aimless, hungry, searching. Each of these adjectives is followed by a related three-syllable petition: shape us now, lead us now, feed us now, meet us now.

607

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology



How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord 432



- 1 How clear is our vo ca tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
- 2 But if, for-get ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
- 3 We mar vel how your saints be-came in hin-dranc-es more sure:
- 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to geth-er or a lone



to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai-ly learn, re-freshed, reif world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not unwhose joy - ful vir-tues put to shame the ca-sual way we wear your in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to



stored, that you are Lord of all will not and let 115 fall. wind its tan-gled skein of care: our in-ward life re - pair. by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure. name, and the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deay-ored, done.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This reflection on Christian vocation was written to provide a new text for a pre-existing tune, and the poet has crafted his words so well that the two parts mesh smoothly. The tune is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.