

Sunday March 22, 2020

Minister: Mark

Prayer: Bill

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT: EYEWITNESS—MARTHA

Welcome

Song: Come Away From Rush and Hurry, LU 527: 1

Come away from rush and hurry
to the stillness of God's peace;
from our vain ambition's worry,
come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor,
life's demands and frenzied pace;
come to join the people gathered
here to seek and find God's grace.

God Greet Us

All: Amen

Song: Come Away From Rush and Hurry, LU 527: 2

In the pastures of God's goodness
we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy
we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God's presence
all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing
into service we are led.

Opening Prayer

Here we are Lord!
We come from the hue and cry of the world
around us to worship you.
In this hour, we long to meet you,
to feel your presence surrounding us,
enveloping us, loving us.
We long to settle into silence,
laying aside our worries and our cares,
aware of your presence around us,
before us, behind us, within us.
God in Community, Holy in One,
As we begin our worship,
we lift our prayers to you, Amen.

Call to Worship

(inspired by Luke 10: 38-42, Psalm 46:10)

One: Come and worship!
Be still and aware of God's presence
within and around you.

(Moment of Silence)

One: Come and worship!
Be still and aware of Jesus' presence
within and around you.

(Moment of Silence)

One: Come and worship!
Be still and aware of the Spirit's presence
within and around you.

(Moment of Silence)

One: Be still and know the presence of the Triune God,
the Father to whom we come,
the Son through whom we come,
the Spirit by whom we come.

(Moment of Silence)

One: Hear his word:
Be STILL, for God is here.

~ adapted from Rev. Dr. A.R. Neal Mathers, in Mary and Martha: Worshipful Work and Carole Penner

Song: Be Still, for the Presence, LU 532:1,2,3

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.
Come, bow before him now,
with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found;
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.
He burns with holy fire;
with splendor he is crowned.

How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him;
in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

WE CONFESS OUR SINS AND ARE PARDONED

Prayer of Confession

(inspired by Luke 10: 38-42)

One: Let us now pray this prayer of confession, admitting that we need your help on this road to Calvary.

Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that the distractions and busyness of our lives
make it difficult to listen deeply to your voice.
Slow us down Lord,
and remind us that
only one thing is needful,
that we be still before you
and know that you are God.

All: Transform our priorities
so that we make space in our lives to be quiet and listen to you.

One: Jesus, seeker of the lost,
we confess to becoming so shaped by the values of this age
that your call on our lives is increasingly hard to hear.

All: **Transform our values
so that they are shaped by your concern for the unloved and unlovely,
and for the weak and powerless in our society.**

One: Jesus, friend of the poor,
we confess that too often any mission and outreach planning
is weighed against economic viability.

All: **Transform our thinking
so that we risk believing that all things are held together,
not by the bottom financial line, but by you.**

One: Jesus, bearer of reconciliation,
we confess that all too often in our faith communities,
we harbor thoughts which estrange
and make us hostile towards one another.

**All: Transform our hearts
so that we are filled with the desire to forgive one another
and to make peace.**

One: Jesus, source of our faith,
we confess that we forget all too quickly the words we say,
and pray, and sing, in our time of worship.

**All: Transform our lives
so that they remain connected to you at all times and in all places.**

Song: O Lord, hear my prayer (Taize), LU 903:

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
when I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
come and listen to me.

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
when I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song,
the Lord is my praise.
All my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song,
the Lord is my praise.
God, the wellspring of life.

Assurance of Pardon

One: You can put your hope in God, dear friends. Be still and know that in every corner of your lives, in every shadow you fear, into the cold embrace of death itself, God comes, our Steadfast Love. He breaks the bonds of sin and terror, giving us new strength and hope for the journey, and calling us to new life through the love and sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Thanks be to God!

WE SHOW OUR THANKS THROUGH SONG, PRAYER AND OFFERINGS

Song: Beautiful Saviour, by Stuart Townend

All my days
I will sing this song of gladness
Give my praise
To the Fountain of delights
For in my helplessness You heard my cry
And waves of mercy poured down on my life

I will trust
In the cross of my Redeemer
I will sing of the blood that never fails
Of sins forgiven
Of conscience cleansed
Of death defeated and life without end

Chorus

Beautiful Saviour Wonderful Counsellor
Clothed in majesty Lord of history
You're the Way the Truth the Life
Star of the Morning glorious in holiness
You're the Risen One heaven's Champion
And You reign You reign over all.

I long to be
Where the praise is never ending
Yearn to dwell
Where the glory never fades
Where countless worshippers
Will share one song
And cries of worthy will honour the Lamb

Chorus

Beautiful Saviour Wonderful Counsellor
Clothed in majesty Lord of history
You're the Way the Truth the Life
Star of the Morning glorious in holiness
You're the Risen One heaven's Champion
And You reign You reign over all

Prayers of the People (Bill)

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 42 there is need of only one thing.[a] Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Message: The Better Part

Prayer

Song of Response: Oh, How I Love Jesus, LU 676: 1, 2, 3

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain

Oh, how I love Jesus!
Oh, how I love Jesus!
Oh, how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me.

It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea.

Refrain

Oh, how I love Jesus!
Oh, how I love Jesus!
Oh, how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me.

It tells of one whose loving heart
can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part
that none can bear below.

Refrain

Oh, how I love Jesus!
Oh, how I love Jesus!
Oh, how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE

One: Now go forth with God's hope!

All: We have put flesh on our faith and will go to serve others.

One: Now go forth to fill others with Christ's Light!

All: We will go to call others to new life, wiping away their tears.

One: Now go forth with the steadfast love of the Spirit!

All: We will go to share that hope for which all people long

God Blesses Us

All: Amen

Song: My Friends, May You Grow in Grace, LU 938

My friends, may you grow in grace
and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

My friends, may you grow in grace
and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory, now and forever,
now and forever, amen.

To God be the glory, now and forever,
now and forever, amen.