

God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, The Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family



The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 26, 2023 - 10:00am

Prelude.....Music Ministry

Doxology *Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Call To Worship.....Pastor Sterling

Minister: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord! Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!"

People: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand, elsewhere, I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Minister: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

People: They are planted in the house of the Lord, they flourish in the courts of our God.

Minister: O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells.

People: But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer.

People: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Make joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, sing praises!

Hymn of Celebration....."He Lives"

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever others say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him He's always near.

Refrain

He likes, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair;
I know that He is leading through all the stormy blast,
The day of His appearing will come at last.

Rejoice, rejoice O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal Hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

Prayer.....Brother Raymond Oliver

Prayer Response....."Sweet Hour of Prayer"

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known;*

*In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,
By Thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

Scripture.....Brother Bobby Chunn
John 3:1-15 (ESV)

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again^[b] he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.^[c] ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You^[d] must be born again.' ⁸The wind^[e] blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you^[f] do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.^[g] ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Introit to the Decalogue (Standing)

*From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through every land, by every tongue*

Summary of the Decalogue.....Sister Evelyn Beasley

Hear what Christ our Saviour saith, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.*

Please Remain Standing for our Confession and Declaration of Pardon

Confession and Declaration of Pardon

Sister Michelle Knight, Leader

Confession

Let us in unison confess our sins together: Almighty and merciful God, we know that when we offend another, we offend you. We are aware that we have often allowed the shadow of hate to cloud our souls, hiding the light from our unseeking eyes. We have said unpleasant and hurtful things to our brothers and sisters when they failed to live up to our expectations. Grant that we might find that spark of love that ever burns within us, the love that you have shown to us even when we failed you. Fan the embers of that love until it roars again in flames of love, peace, and reconciliation. Forgive us our sin and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us. Lead us into new life through your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of all. Amen.

(Michael J. O'Donnell)

Declaration of Pardon

Return to us, O Lord God, and pardon this sin of your servants. Cause your face to shine upon us, and we shall again, receive eternal life and be saved. Amen.

Pastor's Words and Greetings to Visitors

Blessing of the Offertory (*Tithes / Offerings / Benevolent*)

Sermonic Selection.....**Music Ministry**

The Message.....**Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor**

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day, He arose from the Dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Doxology *Praise God from whom all blessing flow: Praise Him, all creatures here below:
Praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Benediction.....**Pastor Ronald D. Sterling**