

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



*The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

**Sunday, March 19, 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 a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, sing praises!

**Hymn of Celebration....."Because He Lives"**

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus,  
He came to love, heal and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain

Because He lives I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future.  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride, and joy He gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to vict'ry,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

**Prayer.....Brother Charles Horton**

**Prayer Response....."Just A Closer Walk With Thee"**

*I am weak but Thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.*

*Refrain*

*Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it Jesus, if You please?  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

**Scripture.....Brother Korda Muhammad**  
**John 9:1-17 (ESV)**

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.<sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."<sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.<sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."<sup>6</sup> Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud<sup>7</sup> and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.<sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"<sup>9</sup> Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."<sup>10</sup> So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"<sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight."<sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.<sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.<sup>15</sup> So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.<sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

**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 Shirley Bailey**

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.*

**Confession and Declaration of Pardon.....Rev. Sherri Radney**

**Confession (*All standing praying in unison*): Let us humbly pray together before God.**

God of overflowing grace, we confess that we have failed to live according to your way of faithfulness and steadfast love. You call us to live in faith but we continue to live in fear. You set us free from the power of evil but we are still captivated by sin. You lead us into a new way of life but we remain in the ways of death. Forgive us, loving God. Open our hearts to the gift of your grace, transform our lives by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to love one another, even as you have loved us; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

**Declaration of Pardon (Rev. Radney only)**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

**Pastor's Words and Greetings to Visitors**

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

**Introduction of Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling**

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

**The Preacher.....Bishop Harry L. Seawright**  
*Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District / A.M.E. Church*

**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:  
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**Benediction.....Bishop Harry L. Seawright**