

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2014 ♦ 11:00 a.m. Worship

Welcome

*Passing of the Peace

Chiming of the Hour *(please be seated)*

Prelude

Improvisation on *Restoration*

*Call to Worship

Leader: We gather as God's people in a world divided and distressed.

People: Yet we gather as one people, united by God.

Leader: We gather as God's people, journeying to Jerusalem.

People: Yet we gather as one people, steadfastly traveling forward together.

Leader: We gather as God's people, frightened by whirlpools of worry which spin us out of control.

All: Yet we gather as one people following in the unending steps of Jesus the Christ, whose name we praise.

*Opening Hymn #131

We Gather Together

*Centering Prayer

As we progress through Lent, our Father, enable us to deepen our spiritual lives. Teach us to pray rightly that we may know the blessing of being rooted and grounded in your Spirit. Focus our minds upon Christ, for it is in him that we see the pattern we are to follow. Thus, it is in his name we pray. Amen.

Response to the Word

Lamb of God by McClure
Joyful Noise Choir; Dylan Lewallen, piano

Children's Message

Psalter Reading

Psalms 48

Hymnal, Page 782

Leader: "The Word of God for the People of God."

Response #1

People: "Thanks be to God."

*Hymn of Preparation #468

Dear Jesus, in Whose Life I See

Sermon

"Run Away!"

Rev. Bates

Text: Luke 9:10-17 (NLT)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

God of grace and love, you created us in your image and gave us every good thing. You asked us to care for your creation, and instead, we have done things that put it at risk. We use not what we need but continually seek more, never satisfied with what we already have. You gave us freedom to make our own decisions, but so often, we make the wrong choice and then try and hide. We succumb to the temptation of power, prestige, desire — whatever sparkly thing is before us. We are blind to the harm we may cause others, thinking of ourselves, failing to consider the greater good. Help us see the world through your eyes and to act accordingly.

(continue to pray in silence)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer #895

Choral Amen

Offering & Offertory

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy
Sanctuary Choir

*Doxology #95

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, you have blessed us beyond measure, and you have called us to worship. May our gifts today flow from hearts of worship to the One who provides all we need. May we never forget that all we have is yours. Take it and use it according to your will. Amen.

*Closing Hymn #2162 (insert)

Grace Alone

*Affirmation of Faith

We affirm the life-giving, renewing work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. In Christ the past is past. It is gone. It no longer determines who we are or who we can become. Christ took care of all that so that we may look to him for our identity and hope. We are reconciled to God through Christ. We are made new creatures. We receive the promise of God's daily presence and mercy. We are God's children! We affirm our choice to live as those whose inheritance is sure, whose joy is secure, and whose present and future are held in the loving hands of our gracious Lord and Savior.

*Benediction

*Postlude

Improvisation on *Soon I Will Be Done*

**For those who are able, please stand*