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Pastor Joseph Dillon
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Worship
March 7, 2021

GATHERING

PRELUDE – “Tree of Life”

Erin/Kristan

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN – “I Heard the Voice of Jesus”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, people of God, and worship the Christ.

Reader: Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven; whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit, there is no deceit.

Let us come and worship the Christ who forgives sin.

A BRIEF CONFESSION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of Christ.

(A moment of silence)

Congregation: Holy God, we pray for your forgiveness of all of our sins: For our self-centered living, and our failure to walk with humility and compassion; for longing to have what is not ours; for the misuse of human relationships, and for our unwillingness to see the face of Christ in others. For our hurtful words that condemn, and divide us one from another. For our unwillingness to share the gifts that You have given us. For our idleness in witnessing to the Love and Grace of Jesus Christ in all that we do and say, Holy God, holy and mighty, have forgiveness for us in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Pastor: We are forgiven by our God through the Risen Christ, and He calls us to be the beloved community of Christ, living out His justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. Amen.

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also, with you.

P: Be filled with the spirit of God today.

C: We worship to open our hearts for God's blessings.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Reader: Here what the spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Psalm 19

To the leader. A Psalm of David.
The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Reader: Here what the spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSE – “Lord, You Have the Words”

GOSPEL READING

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!” His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Reader: Here what the spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – “Canticle of the Turning”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let join in professing our faith:

Congregation: We believe in God the Creator of all, known to us through perfect love, and who called us forth as a people of faith.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word became flesh, crucified and resurrected, our Savior from sin, our peace, and Lord of the church.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, poured out on all believers, our source of inspiration and power.

We respond to Christ in faith as the church, the community sustained by the Spirit, called to proclaim and witness to the kingdom of God. Amen.

(Based on the “Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective: 1995)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: As we are guided by the Spirit, let us offer our prayers for the Church, for the nation, for our world, and for all in need.

(A brief silence)

Pastor: Lord, during this season of Lent, give us a new awareness of your presence throughout our journey to the Cross. Aid us as we struggle in these days of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, and help us to see in the coming of the vaccines, hope that someday soon, that this time of heartache, sorrow and fear will end. Lord in your mercy, (all) hear our prayer.

Congregation: Holy God, Creator of all things, give us wisdom to use the gifts of your creation wisely. Enable us to grow the crops and animals so that the food that comes from You will feed all people, especially in these times, those who hunger because of lost employment, those who suffer hunger because of war and turmoil in their nations and all others in need. Lord in your mercy, (all) hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, we pray for those who lead the nations and factions of the world, that they would listen to your voice that speaks of justice and the rule of law for all people. We pray for the safety of all those who protect us on the streets of our cities, our firefighters, police officers, EMTs and others, that they would return home to their families safely this day. We pray also for our military personnel around the world who place themselves in harm's way each day, as well as our health care workers who must make difficult decisions of life and death each day. Lord in your mercy, (all) hear our prayer.

Congregation: We give you thanks for the scientists and others who have worked on the vaccines that are now protecting so many of us, yet at the same time we pray for those who mourn the deaths of their loved ones. We ask you Lord, to surround them with your arms of comfort and compassion. We pray for those who are ill of body, mind, or spirit here at Bethany and all others who are in need of your hands of healing and wholeness. Lord in your mercy, (all) hear our prayer.

Pastor: Listen to each of us Lord, as we come to you in this moment of silent prayer. It is into Your hands, great and compassionate God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF BLESSING

God of all blessings, giver of all good gifts; day by day you shower us with what we need to live and prosper. With glad and generous hearts and in a response to thanksgiving, we return a portion of our wealth. May what we give be a symbol of our gratitude and a blessing of your love for those who may be helped through our offering. Amen.

MEAL

Communion Dialogue

P: For the spiritual hunger in our lives, Jesus said:

C: Eat this bread.

P: For the spiritual longing to have fellowship with God, Jesus said:

C: Drink this cup.

P: Jesus is the Bread of life, the risen Lord.

C: In him there is no hunger, in him there is no thirst.

P: On the night he was betrayed ...

Communion Invitation

P: Come to God's table; be fed and satisfied.

C: We come to feed our spirit and be in the presence of God.

Communion Music – “I Am the Bread of Life”

Erin/Kristan

Communion Blessing

P: Let us pray:

C: Radiant God, may your Word take flesh in us that we may be your holy people. May this meal empower us to better be your loving servants. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every good blessing. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – “Lift High the Cross”

DISMISSAL

Paster: Go in Peace...to live and serve in the way of the cross.

Response: Thanks be to God.

(To watch the videotaped version of the worship service, click the link below)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uct8qX94ICK-omDHSc71en4w>