

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021 10:30 a.m.



Watch our Chapel Service on CHANNEL 102

Order of Worship

Bells of Taizé

Taizé
Music of Unity & Peace

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Rhonda R.

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer.*

We invite you to
meditate on the words
of the hymn as
Rhonda plays.

*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy laden
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
You will find a solace there.*

Text: Joseph Scriven; **Music:** Charles Converse

Irish BlessingMercy International
Association**Words of Welcome**

Pr. Kristine

Prayer of the Day

Dear God, our refuge for this day and for each day to come, touch us with the finger of your power. Be our protection and strong defense against all attacks of darkness. Where people look to you out of the darkness, let their eyes grow shining bright with the light from your eyes. Let your light shine within us and around us. Let your light bring your cause to victory, to the final great day of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Confession

Let us come before God, confessing our sin.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We have turned from you and given ourselves over to other gods. We do not love you with our whole heart; we do not love our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

Hear the voice from Heaven:
You are my beloved. I strengthen the weary;
I give power to the powerless.
Your sins are forgiven.
Go forth in my name. **Amen.**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

LBW 448

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Text: John Newton; **Music:** W. Walker, Southern Harmony

Psalm 107: 1-3; 17-22

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble

and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;

he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Gospel of John 3: 1-17

The Message

There was a man of the Pharisee sect, Nicodemus, a prominent leader among the Jews. Late one night he visited Jesus and said, “Rabbi, we all know you’re a teacher straight from God. No one could do all the God-pointing, God-revealing acts you do if God weren’t in on it.”

Jesus said, “You’re absolutely right. Take it from me: Unless a person is born from above, it’s not possible to see what I’m pointing to—to God’s kingdom.”

“How can anyone,” said Nicodemus, “be born who has already been born and grown up? You can’t re-enter your mother’s

(Turn page)

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womb and be born again. What are you saying with this ‘born-from-above’ talk?”

Jesus said, “You’re not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the ‘wind-hovering-over-the-water’ creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. When you look at a baby, it’s just that: a body you can look at and touch. But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can’t see and touch—the Spirit—and becomes a living spirit.

“So don’t be so surprised when I tell you that you have to be ‘born from above’—out of this world, so to speak. You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it’s headed next. That’s the way it is with everyone ‘born from above’ by the wind of God, the Spirit of God.”

Nicodemus asked, “What do you mean by this? How does this happen?”

Jesus said, “You’re a respected teacher of Israel and you don’t know these basics? Listen carefully. I’m speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay. Yet instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with

questions. If I tell you things that are plain as the hand before your face and you don't believe me, what use is there in telling you things you can't see, the things of God?

“No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.

“This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.”

Sermon

Pr. Kristine

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Rhonda R.

Prayers of the Church

Book of Common Prayer

Offering/Offertory

Create in Me

ELW 188

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 And renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from your presence,
 And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
 And uphold me with your free Spirit.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen

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Instruction Concerning the Lord's Supper



HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Jesus said, *I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.*

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

The Meal



Communion Song *I Am the Bread of Life* WOV 702

I am the Bread of Life.
 You who come to me shall not hunger,
 And who believe in me shall not thirst.
 No one can come to me unless the Father draws him.

Refrain:

**And I will raise you up,
 And I will raise you up,
 And I will raise you up on the last day.**

The bread that I will give
 Is my flesh for the life of the world,
 And if you eat of this bread,
 You shall live forever, you shall live forever. **Refrain:**

I am the resurrection,
 I am the life
 If you believe in me, even though you die
 You shall live forever. **Refrain:**

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, based on John 6; **Music:** Suzanne Toolan, RSM. Text and music © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ our Redeemer; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Announcements

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

LBW 479

My faith looks up to thee,
 Thou Lamb of Calvary,
 Savior divine!
 Now hear me while I pray,
 Take all my guilt away,
 Oh, let me from this day
 Be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart
 Strength to my fainting heart,
 My zeal inspire;
 As thou hast died for me,
 Oh, may my love to thee
 Pure, warm, and changeless be,
 A living fire!

When life's dark maze I tread
 And griefs around me spread,
 Be thou my guide;
 Bid darkness turn to day,
 Wipe sorrow's tears away,
 Nor let me ever stray
 From thee aside.



When ends life's transient dream,
 When death's cold, sullen stream
 Shall o'er me roll;
 Blest Savior, then, in love
 Fear and distrust remove;
 Oh, bear me safe above,
 A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer; **Music:** Lowell Mason

Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you,
 May the wind be always at your back,
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,
 The rain fall soft upon your fields,
 And until we meet again,
 May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ goes with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

I Bind unto Myself Today

Rhonda R.

Thanks be to God for

Mark Heiman
 Rhonda Reece
 Christiana Adams
 All Saints Episcopal Church
 NRC Residents, Staff, and Their Families
 and
 All God's Servants and Friends

Lent 2021

The NRC Chapel won't be used for holding services on Wednesdays. Channel 105 will be "open" for you to look and listen, pray and meditate—using the cross, candles, and the small altar covered with Lenten cloths.

We will play recorded music appropriate for Lent in the Chapel on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30 PM.

Pr. Kristine will pray silently in the Chapel for our residents, our staff, and their families.

Sunday services in Lent will incorporate Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week in their proper order and week.

Concerning Offerings

The Community Action Center (CAC) of Northfield fulfills the great and growing needs of our neighbors by providing resources for shelter, food, clothing, and other basic necessities.

Our help is much needed as, according to CAC Executive Director Scott Wopata, the food shelf is serving 3.5 times what has been typical in the past and providing lodging in hotels for approximately 20 families a night.

Let us all continue to pray for the individuals and families served by the CAC, and for the CAC, also.

If you are so moved and able to do so, you can also make a charitable, tax-deductible contribution to the critical work of CAC online at:

<https://communityactioncenter.org/donate/>

or you can send your check directly to:

**Mr. Scott Wopata, Executive Director, CAC,
1651 Jefferson Parkway, Suite HS-200, Northfield, MN 55057**

An Irish Blessing



May the blessing of light be upon you,
light on the outside and light on the inside.

With God's sunlight shining on you,
may your heart glow with warmth like a turf fire
that welcomes friends and strangers alike.

May the light of the Lord shine from your eyes
like a candle in the window, welcoming the weary traveler.

May the blessing of God's soft rain be on you, falling gently on
your head, refreshing your soul with the sweetness of little flowers
newly blooming.

May the strength of the winds of Heaven bless you, carrying the
rain to wash your spirit clean, sparkling after, in the sunlight.

May the blessing of God's earth be on you and as you walk the
roads, may you always have a kind word for those you meet.

May you understand the strength and power of God in a
thunderstorm in winter, the quiet beauty of creation and the calm
of a summer sunset.

And may you come to realize that insignificant as you may seem
in this great universe, you are an important part of God's plan.

May God watch over you and keep you safe from harm.



CELEBRATING 50 years

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