

We Gather As God's People

Prelude: Savior Like a Shepard Lead Us with He Leadeth Me *William Bradbury Arr. Cindy Berry*

Announcement: Dorchester Pastoral Charge Annual Meeting – Sunday March 14, 2021
Immediately after the conclusion of the service.

Anthem: We Believe *Dorchester United Church Choir*

Lighting the Christ Candle:

As we make our way to the cross we are overcome by the fear of what lies ahead for us. Even the light we follow grows dim. But the One ahead of us has promised to be the light in our darkness. May the light that flickers never go out.

Call to Worship:

We see God's glory in the created order. The entire universe reveals God's creative power. No voice can utter, no word can tell of the mighty acts that brought into being what we have yet to imagine. Each day is a gift from God. Come let us offer praise and worship to the Almighty and Eternal God.

VU # 110 A Lenten Prayer

God of love,
as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to you,
living according to your holy will.
Keep our feet firmly in the way
where Christ leads us;
help our lips speak the truth
that Christ teaches us;
fill our bodies with the life
that is Christ within us. Amen.

Hymn VU # 339 When Morning gilds the Skies

1 When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awakening cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

2 To God, the Word on high,
the hosts of angels cry:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let mortals, too, upraise
their voice in hymns of praise:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, You have shown us how the world can flourish once more so our lives may be full again. Show us in our time here how we may honour and respect the earth. We confess our failure to hear your call. We have cheapened the life you have given us and abused the creation that You love so much. Show us how we can imagine a better world, even how we can change this world. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon:

God has promised to forgive us as many times as we fail. Let us go to make this world a better place even as we offer our praise and thanks to God.

Hymn VU # 686 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.

3 Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Set our feet on lofty places;
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christ-like graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.

We hear the Word of God:

First Lesson Exodus 20: 1-17

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it. "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you. "You shall not kill. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Psalm 19

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 them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, 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 there is nothing hid from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever; 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 thy servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can discern his errors? Clear thou me from hidden faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not 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 in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Gospel John 2: 13-22

Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers at their business. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all, with the sheep and oxen, out of the temple; and he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; you shall not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for thy house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign have you to show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he spoke of the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

Sermon: "From Synagogue to Temple" Rev. Keith Rameshwar

Hymn VU # 325 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and its confidence alone.

2 To this temple where we call you,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with your faithful loving-kindness
hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls away.

3 Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain;
what they gain from you for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.

4 Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one,
one in mighty, and one in glory,
while unending ages run.

We Respond to the Word of God

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Hymn:

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

Lord use our lives they are Yours

We are an offering

All that we have

All that we are

All that we hope to be

We give to You

We give to You

Prayer of Dedication

As Jesus offered himself for a world in need, so we offer ourselves in these gifts. Today we join a worldwide community as messengers of goodwill for God has shown us how to serve, to give, and to love. Strengthen us, O God, for your work in the world as we seek to follow in the way of Christ.
Amen

Prayers of the People:

The Prayer of Jesus:

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 them that 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
For ever and ever Amen

Hymn VU #183 We meet You, O Christ

1 We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise;
your image we see in simple and wise.
You live in a palace, exist in a shack.
We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.

2 In millions alive, away and abroad,
involved in our life you live down the road.
Imprisoned in systems, you long to be free.
We see you, O Jesus, still bearing your tree.

3 We hear you, O Man [Christ], in agony cry.
For freedom you march, in riots you die.
Your face in the papers we read and we see.
The tree must be planted by human decree.

4 You choose to be made at one with the earth;
the dark of the grave prepares for your birth.
Your death is your rising, creative your word:
the tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

Commissioning:

You have heard the promises given in the law to Moses. Now go and live in the light of those promises that they may shine through you to others.

Benediction:

What lies before you is a new phase in the journey. Enter into it with the confidence that hope always nurtures and may the grace of a loving God, the peace of Christ and the power of the Spirit guard and guide your every step. Amen

Postlude: Lead On Oh King Eternal *Henry T. Smart Arr. Melody Bober*