

## **April 3, 2022 – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Prelude**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Greeting**

**Opening Hymn** (Instrumental) - NCH 191 - "Before Your Cross, O Jesus" to the tune "St. Christopher" speaks of setting a new path for forgiveness. The 2nd verse closes with "The faith we keep in goodness, our love, as low or pure, on all, the judgment of the cross falls steady, clear and sure."

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Liturgist: God's spirit is moving among us; give thanks! Our God is about to do a new thing in our midst.

**Congregation: How good it is to be chosen by God; we gather to sing our praises and thanks.**

Liturgist: God has done great things for us; we are glad! Now God is pointing us toward new goals.

**Congregation: We are waiting to hear what God would have us do; we are ready to risk new behaviors to be faithful.**

Liturgist: Into the wilderness of our lives comes living water. Into the sorrow of our days comes reason for joy.

**Congregation: Forgetting what lies behind we greet our future; we press on, responding to the upward call of Christ.**

**Hymn** (Instrumental) - NCH 491. Phillip Doddridge wrote over 400 hymns in his lifetime, but none were published while he was alive. Connected to today's Epistle, pressing on in the heavenly race is the theme. The fourth verse says, "O Savior, shown the way by you, I have my race begun; And, crowned with victory, at your feet I'll lay my honors down."

**Confession of Sin**

**O God, whose upward call in Christ Jesus we have so often chosen to ignore, we confess that we settle for lesser goals while you summon us to embrace the realm of heaven. We seldom look beyond our own interests to the well-being of our sisters and brothers. We can see the wasteful acts of other people but not our own selfish habits. We exaggerate the contributions we make but ignore the sacrifices of others. We need forgiveness, O God. Do a new thing within and among us. Amen.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Gloria Patri**

**Old Testament Lesson** – Isaiah 43:16-21 - God is about to bring the promise of restoration to fruition for Israel. As God gives us a new day each twenty-four hours, God promises to give new life to the chosen people. The failures of the past will be obliterated as God performs the miracle of restoration.

**Hymn of Praise** (Recorded video) – For children of all ages, with sweet Easter candy on their minds, our hymn is reminder of the Good News of Jesus' coming Resurrection. This is, "Jesus is Sweeter Than Candy" by Worshiphouse Kids.

### **Children's Sermon**

**Epistle Lesson** – Philippians 3:4b-14 - Paul claims the outward signs of purification do not fully address the forgiveness and healing of the soul. He is probably the best example in the New Testament of how God erases our past. When the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit washes our soul, we must accept the challenge of moving toward our ultimate potential, through Jesus Christ. Our past mistakes can enslave us, if we let them. Forgetting those things which are behind us liberates us to soar toward the prize.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

#### **Offering**

**Offertory** - 536 - "Savior, an Offering Costly and Sweet" - Based in part on today's Gospel, this hymn acknowledges the ultimate gift Christ gave to all of us.

**Gospel Lesson** – John 12:1-8 - This story could be titled, "Giving you the best that I've got." As a gift, Mary's anointing of Jesus pales in comparison to the gift of restoration and hope she has received from him through his ministry.

#### **Sermon**

#### **Communion**

**Closing Hymn** (Instrumental) - NCH 210 - "Said Judas to Mary" imagines the dialogue between Judas, Mary and Jesus that is referenced in today's Gospel. It closes with "'My body will hang on the cross of the world tomorrow,' he said, 'not to-day. And Martha and Mary will find me again and wash all my sorrow away.'"

#### **Benediction**

#### **Postlude**

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