

March 27, 2022 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Greeting

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 614 - "Camina, Pueblo de Dios" is translated from the Spanish as "Go Forth, O People of God." This is connected to the Epistle for 2 Corinthians where we are appointed as Christ's ambassadors.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: A new day has dawned, God's gift to us; the fruits of the land are ours to enjoy.

Congregation: **We are a new creation in Jesus Christ; the old has passed away, the new has come.**

Liturgist: This is a day for forgiveness and reconciliation; celebrate God's love for the lost who are found.

Congregation: **The glad cries of deliverance surround us; shouts of joy arise from our hearts.**

Liturgist: Let all who are faithful offer up prayers; may all who are in Christ give thanks.

Congregation: **We will be glad and join the dance of life; with the upright of heart, we rejoice and sing.**

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 222 - "My Song Is Love Unknown" is also connected to 2 Corinthians and closes with "This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend."

Confession of Sin

O God, we will not try to hide from you the wrong we have done or the good we have neglected. You know our transgressions. You have observed our pretensions. We have claimed too lightly the label "Christian", for often we cut ourselves off from you and from people we disdain. At times our rebellion leaves us hungry, alone, and friendless. O God, we are not worthy to be called your children. Grant us, we pray, your forgiveness and pardon and a renewed sense of who you intend us to be and to become. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri

Old Testament Lesson – Joshua 5:9-12- The Israelites celebrate the Passover in their new land and the manna ceases.

Hymn of Praise (Recorded) - Today's Hymn of Praise is a pre-recorded hymn by First Choir. "Down at the Cross" was written by Elisha Hoffman. He pastored several congregations and wrote or edited 50 songbooks throughout his career.

Children's Sermon

Epistle Lesson – 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 - In Christ we become brand-new creations, reconciled to God; we therefore are Christ's ambassadors, proclaimers of this message of reconciliation.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory - (203) Connected to the story of the prodigal child, "Ah, What Shame I have to Bear" is based on a Japanese 12th Century melody. It closes with "Waking from my foolish dreams to my home I'll go."

Gospel Lesson – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32- Jesus tells a parable about a prodigal son, an elder brother, and an unusual father.

Sermon

Closing Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 202 - Our Gospel from Luke inspired our closing hymn. The harmonization is by Johann Sebastian Bach and the text was written by Kevin Nichols. "O God, How We Have Wandered" closes with "Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease. Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace."

Benediction

Postlude

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