



SOTC Worship
February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent

————— GATHERING —————

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God who meets us where we are—
There is nowhere we can go that you are not.
You were with Jesus at his baptism.
You were with him in the wilderness,
And even in between, you were there,
Saying aloud, “This is my beloved.”

We know that you are with us too—
In the good, the bad, and everything in between—
But so often we act like we are alone.
Instead of coming to you with our hurt,
We hold it in or cast it onto others.
Instead of coming to you with our joy,
We credit ourselves and offer you nothing.

How can we long for a deeper relationship with you
While living like you are nowhere to be found?
Forgive our self-centered ways.
Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.

You are the God who meets us where we are.
Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.

Family of faith, hear the good news! God is here. God sees you. God knows you. God meets you at the edge of every new beginning. In the name of Jesus Christ +, your sins are forgiven. Go, and live as God’s beloved. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.
And also with you.

————— **WORD** —————

FIRST READING: GENESIS 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

PSALM: PSALM 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

³**Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

⁵**Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.**

⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

⁷**Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!**

⁸Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

**¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:9-15

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you O Christ

SERMON



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer." If you would like to add a prayer petition, email it to Pastor Aleese at pastor@shepherdofthecross.org

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 forever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Congregation is invited to share communion elements with those in their family, saying "The body of Christ, given for you," and "the blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are worshipping on your own, hear the words proclaimed by Pastor Aleese as God's Word of promise is spoken to you. All are welcome to share in God's feast given to us in love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

As you leave this space,
may your mouth speak of God's goodness;
may your arms hold those in need;
may your feet walk toward justice;
may your heart trust its worth;
may your soul dance in God's grace;
and may this be your rhythm –
again and again and again...
until God's promised day.

In the name of + Jesus Christ: the Beloved, and Love itself:
go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you!

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