

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HANCOCK

Open and Affirming of ALL God's Children



**Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21, 2021**

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Passcode: 619077

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Silent Prayer

Loving God, you offer the gift of new life each day.
Open my heart to receive this grace that I may be wholly yours,
then give me the courage to share this gift wherever I go
as I seek to walk in your way of mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life. Amen

Prelude

Now Winter Fades From Sight

J.S. Bach

Welcome

Rev.TJ Mack

Introit

Let All Things Now Living (v.1)

(HTL) red hymnal # 529

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light,*

Passing of the Peace (ASL)

Lighting of the Peace Candle & Prayer for Peace –

Call to Worship – (spoken in unison, but muted, please)

One: Let us gather to worship.

All: We come to worship, to pray, and learn.

One: We come looking for Jesus in Scripture lessons, in our own life experiences, in helping our world, in prayers for each other.

All: We seek to follow in the way of Jesus.

One: We lay bare before God and one another our own wilderness journey filled with some gladness and hope, with reluctance and sorrow, with fear and confusion.

All: O God, speak to us, show us, touch us with your presence!

One: Let our Lenten journey lead us to Jesus, so that we may show Jesus forth in our lives, our faith community, and our world.

All: Amen

Children's Hymn

I Love to Tell the Story (v. 2)

black hymnal #522

*I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden visions of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, I tell it now to you
because I want to share it, because I know it's true.*

Refrain:

*I love to tell the story, and when I am in glory,
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.*

Invocation (spoken in unison, but muted, please)

God of the journey, you invite us, the church, “to accept the cost and joy of discipleship” and “to be your servants in the service of others.” In so doing, may your presence be our guide and Jesus our model. May we respond to you in loving faithfulness. Amen

Children’s Message

Godly Play

Faces of Easter

Remembering Jesus’ Healing & Sharing Parables

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

New Testament Reading

John 12:20-33

Special Music

Will You Come and Follow Me?

Arr. Walz

Message

Rev. TJ Mack

Hymn *Before the Cross of Jesus*

(HTL) red hymnal #188

*Before the cross of Jesus our lives are judged today;
The meaning of our eager strife is tested by his way.
Across our restless living the light streams from his cross
And by its clear, revealing beams we measure gain and loss.*

*The hopes that lead us onward, the fears that hold us back,
Our will to dare great things for God, the courage that we lack,
The faith we keep in goodness, our love, as low or pure,
On all, the judgment of the cross falls steady, clear, and sure.*

*Yet humbly, in our striving, O God, we face its test.
We crave the power to do your will with him who did it best.
On us let now the healing of his great Spirit fall,
And make us brave and full of joy to answer to his call.*

Call to Confession

Psalms 51:1-12, adapted – Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, I have sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Assurance of Pardon

You will never be cast away from God's presence, God's Holy Spirit will be with you always. Your willing spirit assures your restoration to the joy of right relationship with God.

Prayers of the People – Sharing Joys & Concerns

Pastoral/Community Prayers

Lord's Prayer *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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Lead Me Lord

*Lead me Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou Lord, thou Lord, only,
that makest me dwell in safety.*

Offering

Welcoming our Tithes and Offerings –

One: Jesus compels us to join him in service to others. Our church accepts the invitation and challenge to show Jesus' Way using the resources we share. Let us give as we are able to the ministries of our church.

Offertory Meditation

Coleman

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heav'nly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

Prayer of Dedication (spoken in unison, but muted, please)

God, there are many who "wish to see Jesus." In joy and celebration of the many gifts that we share, we ask you to bless all of our offerings. May Jesus shine in all the world. Amen

Hymn *My Life Flows on in Endless Song* (vs. 1,2,4) (HTL) red hymnal #427

*My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

Benediction – (spoken in unison, unmuted)

Dear God. We thank you for today, for being with us, accepting our worship and prayers, and for guiding us on our way. Bless us as we go, and in turn, may we bless others. Amen

Postlude

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Finnish Folk tune/ Smith

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Attention: Treasurer

Many thanks to those who helped make this service possible –

in front of the camera and behind the scenes.

Deb Riley – Music Minister

Doug Kimmel – Deacon

Ron Schwizer – Hymn Leader

Kathy McGlinchey – Liturgist

Ruth Dietze – Flower Minister

Cynthia Wood – Graphics Minister

Ron Schwizer – Audio-Video Minister

Jennifer Ashmore – Technical Support

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Resources:

Feasting on the Word, adapted and Worship Ways, adapted

We Wish to See Jesus: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Lent was written by

Rev. Rosemary McCombs Maxey, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is retired clergy and a member of Fellowship Congregational United Church of Christ, Tulsa, Oklahoma.