



*Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal.*

*- John 12:24-25*

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 21, 2021**

Some tips for our time together:

1. Please mute your Zoom feed. There will be moments for you to share as you feel led at which point you can unmute.
2. As is typical, the singing and bold print are for communal response. Caroline and Dave will be unmuted and be the “out-loud” voice of the people. We invite you to sing and say the words aloud along with them where you are while muted.
3. Follow along in the bulletin on a separate device (e.g. phone)
4. We aren't sure, but it might make sense to switch back and forth between the 'gallery' and 'active speaker' modes. Perhaps utilizing active speaker mode for the reading of scripture, homily/sharing, and prayers of the people, while using gallery for the rest.
5. Create sacred space. Find symbols of the faith—cross, candles, Bible, bowl of water, icons—to put on a table near you during this time.

## GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Joana Harader)*

In the lowest valley,

**on the highest height;**

in the hardest seasons of life,

**in the moments of ease;**

in our day-to-day existence,

**in the holy times we set aside.**

In the presence of new life,

**in the face of death.**

Here and now, in this place:

**we come to worship,**

**to listen,**

**to pay attention.**

To die to our false selves

and find what is most true.

**we come to worship.**

SONG - Your Grace Is Enough

Great is your faithfulness, O God.

You wrestle with the sinner's heart.

You lead us by still waters into mercy,

and nothing can keep us apart.

Your grace is enough,

your grace is enough

your grace is enough for me.

So remember your people,

remember your children,

remember your promise, O God.

Great is your love and justice, God.

You use the weak to lead the strong.

You lead us in the song of your salvation,

and all your people sing along.

## WORD

CONFESSION

God of death and resurrection,

**we confess our false selves**

**that we cling to out of fear:**

**consumer,**

**achiever,**

**failure,**

**people pleaser,**

**agitator,**

**expert—**

**and those false selves**

**we name to you in the silence:**

~silent confession ~

God of death and resurrection,

**give us faith to loosen our grip**

**on our false selves,**

**that in losing our lives  
we may find them raised up  
with the risen Christ  
to the glory of your name.**

#### SONG OF CONFESSION

O tender God, have mercy  
for you are for us.  
O living Christ, have mercy  
for you will hear us.  
O tender God have mercy,  
For you are for us,  
for you are for us.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

#### SONG - Tu Fidelidad

Tu fidelidad es grande.	I depend upon your faithfulness.
Tu fidelidad incomparable es.	I can carry on, for you are always near.
Nadie como tú, bendito Dios.	None compares with you, O blessed one,
Grande es tu fidelidad.	Oh, how great your faithfulness!

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON - Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

#### GOSPEL LESSON - John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will

keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

SERMON - Chin Up. Shoulders Squared. Hold Their Gaze. - Judy Peterson

SONG - Take, O Take Me As I Am

Take, O take me as I am.  
Summon out what I shall be.  
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

### **SENDING**

SONG - Take My Life, and Let It Be

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee,  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my wealth, all I possess;  
make me rich in faithfulness.  
Take my mind that I may use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose,  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my love; Lord, I will pour  
at thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
thine for all eternity,  
thine for all eternity.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION