

# The Service of the Lord's Day



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 11, 2018

8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

## Assemble in God's Name

We joyfully welcome you to worship this morning!  
All are invited to use the Prayer and Prelude as a time of silent preparation.

**Lenten Reflection**     “Careful Consideration”     Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Jerusalem*

*Certain in-charge church people  
expound upon the finer points of doctrine  
while the disenfranchised await the verdict.*

*Meanwhile the holy fools rush in  
and touch the outcasts,  
creating Good News once again.*

**Prelude**     *Prelude and Fugue in G Major*     Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

**Welcome**     Rev. Carter

**\*Call to Worship**     Jenness Hall

*Leader: Friends of God, trust this:  
God loved the world,  
God loves the world,  
we are the beloved!*

**People: May the truth of this great love story  
shine through our worship today,  
and renew our sense of calling.**

*Leader: So come, with your tiredness,  
your frustrations and your discouragements;  
come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings;  
come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy.*

**People: We come, in response to God's love,  
akin to each other and the world around us,  
to listen for God's Word to us, to offer our prayers,  
and to renew our calling.**

*Leader: Friends of God, let us worship!*

*\*Invitation to Confess*

Rev. Strom

*\*Prayer of Confession*

O God of Comfort and God of Challenge,  
 We see the pains of our world:  
     Creation weeps amid its abuse;  
     the violence of poverty and guns persist;  
     discrimination continues excluding some from the table.  
 But before spending ourselves  
     in pursuit of your kingdom's peace for all,  
     we pause first to consider the cost:  
         "Can we afford to take a stand?"  
         "Will justice cost too much?"  
 O God, forgive us when our fear displaces our faith.  
 Grant us the faith-filled conviction to use the gifts you've given us  
     to pursue your kingdom until all—not just some—  
     know peace and grace and love.

- silent reflection and confession.-

*\*Assurance of Grace*

Leader: You are blessed because God's image is deep within you.  
           You are blessed because God clothes you in grace and mercy.  
           You are blessed because you are God's beloved.  
 People: We will respond to God's blessings by the way we love  
           others. May our lives be used for God's purposes!

*\*Response to Grace*

Living God

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Spir - it of the". The second staff continues: "liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me; mold me; fill me;". The third staff concludes: "use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me." The music ends with a double bar line.

GTG: #288

*\*Passing of the Peace*

Leader: Not a simple peace, not an easy peace,  
           but may the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
 People: And also with you.

- All are invited to share the "peace" of Christ with one another -

- Children are invited to come forward -

*Children's Message* (10:00)

- Children through Middle School are invited to the Education Wing -

# Proclaim God's Word

## *Prayer for Illumination*

Elder Lenore Chapman

## *Scripture Reading*

Ephesians 2: 1-10 (Pew Bible p. 192, N.T.)

Leader: *Holy Wisdom, Holy Word;*

People: Thanks be to God!

## *Scripture Reading*

John 3: 14-21 (Pew Bible p. 94, N.T.)

Leader: *For the Word of God in Scripture,*

*For the Word of God among us,*

*For the Word of God within us,*

People: Thanks be to God!

## *Sermon*

“Who Gets In?”

# Respond in Thanks & Faith

*\*Hymn #314*(10:00)

“Christ, Be Our Light”

Christ, Be Our Light

## *\*Affirmation of Faith*

Roddy Hamilton (inspired by John 3: 16; *adapted*)

Leader: *God loved the world so much that God sent Jesus the son  
so that all who trust in him would have eternal life.*

People: **God loved the world so much  
Love gave everything it had  
so that anyone who grasped the story of love  
would be grasped by love's story and find what's eternal.**

Leader: *God loved the world so much heaven opened up itself completely  
so that whoever welcomed the kingdom in  
through works of love and justice  
would find fullness of life—true life.*

People: **God loved the world so much  
Jesus put on flesh and lived among us  
so that the face of God would be clear to humanity  
and the word of God would be clearly heard  
that no life is cheap enough to destroy.**

Leader: *God loved the world so much God entered the world  
so that anyone who banked on love would discover life's ultimate value  
and, in so doing, live it fully.*

People: **God loved the world so much  
God let Jesus gamble everything on love  
even to crucifixion and death  
so that all who ventured to love in that way  
would know what's been distilled in eternity.**

Leader: *God loved the world so much that God sent Jesus the son*

People: **so that all who trust in him would have eternal life.**

## *Prayers of the People & The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## *Call to Commitment*

*Offertory*      *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*      arr. Eric Nelson

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

*\*Doxology*      Wild Mountain Thyme

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of  
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing  
and in giv-ing. Spir-it, o - pen my heart.

GTG: #692

## *\*Prayer of Dedication*

Leader: O God of justice rooted deep within your love,  
we give in response to your love!

People: May we generously spend ourselves in pursuit of your  
kingdom, that grace and justice may abound!

*\*Hymn #833*      "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"      St. Margaret

## *\*Benediction*

*Postlude*      *Andante maestoso, Op. 101, No. 5*      Charles V. Stanford (1852-1924)

\*Worshippers are invited to stand as able.

\*\*Large print bulletins with Hymns and hearing assistance devices are available;  
please ask a deacon (with a red nametag) for assistance.