

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Before service speak silently to the Lord, during the service let the Lord speak powerfully to you.

Service for the Worship of God



Our Mission is to be a
community of disciples
with a heart for God
and hands to help others.

boldface = Congregation participates

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of Growth and Ultimate Possibility, we give you thanks for this day and the opportunity it presents. Help us to be aware, lifting the burdens of one another and serving you in love. Encourage us to grow into your love, realizing the potential for this world to come together in your name. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Grow As We Go*

by Ben Platt

Gathering in the Lord's Presence

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Called to lead a life that is worthy, we gather as God's people.

ALL: Whatever roads we walk, whatever waters we have passed through, we share one baptism.

Leader: Called to model lives of service, we share in the building up of Christ's Body.

ALL: Our backgrounds are different, our habits vary, but we share a common faith in Christ.

Leader: Called to be people of peace and gentleness, we offer these gifts to all of God's creation.

ALL: Though each of us is unique and precious to God, our hearts beat as one with hope. Amen.

HYMN #653 *Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries (Psalm 107)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Compassion and Love, we know the mistakes we have made, the harsh words we have spoken, and the hurt that we have inflicted on others. Like small children who run from one distraction to another, we chase after the easy temptations of the world. We continue to do things that break your heart, refusing to look in the mirror and see our true selves.

Forgive us. Raise us from the ashes of our brokenness. Grace us with new life. Heal us with joy and gladness. Tend to our hearts that they might beat in rhythm with you. Help us to grow into the people you desire us to be. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Seeing our brokenness, God puts us back together, knowing our hunger for hope. God feeds us with Christ; hearing our prayers, God chooses to forgive us. Hear the Good News: We are forgiven.

People: One hope, one faith, one baptism, one Body – these are the gifts God gives to us. In this moment, and in all moments to come, let us give thanks, and grow in the love of God. Amen

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Hearing the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

RESPONSE:

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: *Growing Up*

Responding to the Word

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Going Forth to Serve

BLESSING

RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION:

You Shall Go Out with Joy

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Messenger Praise Band

Lauren Cochran, Pastor

Leslie Menconi, Prayers

Kurt Schweitz, *Messenger* Praise Band Director

Caroline Wolfe, Reader

Matt Parker Wrzeszcz, Associate Pastor