



Mid-Week Lent Worship

February 24 , 2021

PRELUDE

“Offertory”

- H. Leslie Adams

“King of Kings” Organ Music of Black Composers, Past and Present

DIALOGUE

Almighty God grant us a quiet night and peace at the last. **Amen.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

to herald your love in the morning,

your truth at the close of the day.

SONG

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Red ELW 325

The death of Jesus and his resurrection are particular focal points of spirituals. Jesus is portrayed as the Oppressed One who can make the dumb speak, the cripple walk, and give sight to the blind. He could do anything, so the slaves pleaded for Jesus to be with them in their trials.

- James H. Cone, *The Spirituals and the Blues*

**I want Jesus to walk with me.
I want Jesus to walk with me.
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, in whom we are forgiven.
We rest now in the peace of Christ and rise in the morning to serve.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 1

- ¹ Happy are those
 who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
 or sit in the seat of scoffers;
² but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees
 planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
 and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ The wicked are not so,
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

REFLECTION

A reflection from John Lewis's book *Across that Bridge*

"Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant. Lean toward the whispers of your own heart, discover the universal truth, and follow its dictates. Know that the truth always leads to love and the perpetuation of peace. Its products are never bitterness and strife. Clothe yourself in the work of love, in the revolutionary work of nonviolent resistance against evil. Anchor the eternity of love in your own soul and embed this planet with goodness. Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won. Choose confrontation wisely, but when it is your time don't be afraid to stand up, speak up, and speak out against injustice. And if you follow your truth down the road to peace and the affirmation of love, if you shine like a beacon for all to see, then the poetry of all the great dreamers and philosophers is yours to manifest in a nation, a world community, and a Beloved Community that is finally at peace with itself."

How does following truth help us to live in a just and full community?

RESPONSE

Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, **who shepherds the people and sets them free.**
God raises from David's house **A child with power to save.**
Through the holy prophets, **God promised in ages past**
To save us from enemy hands, **From the grip of all who hate us.**
The Lord favored our ancestors, **Recalling the sacred covenant,**
The pledge to our ancestor Abraham, **To free us from our enemies,**
So we might worship without fear, **And be holy and just all our days.**
And you, child, will be called **prophet of the Most High,**
For you will come to prepare **A pathway for the Lord**
By teaching the people salvation, **Through forgiveness of their sin.**
Out of God's deepest mercy, **A dawn will come from on high,**
Light for those shadowed by death, **A guide for our feet on the way of peace.**

Benedictus, Zechariah's Song (Luke 1:68-79)

SONG

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Red ELW 325

**When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

POEM

"Open Unto Me" Howard Thurman

Open unto me—light for my darkness.
Open unto me—courage for my fear.
Open unto me—hope for my despair.
Open unto me—peace for my turmoil.
Open unto me—joy for my sorrow.
Open unto me—strength for my weakness.
Open unto me—wisdom for my confusion.
Open unto me—forgiveness for my sins.
Open unto me—tenderness for my toughness.
Open unto me—love for my hates.
Open unto me—Thy Self for myself.
Lord, Lord, open unto me!

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

Almighty and merciful God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forevermore. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"Offertory" - H. Leslie Adams
"King of Kings" a collection of Organ Music Hymns
of Black Composers, Past and Present

If you are interested in reading more from the authors, whose works have been read during our Lenten midweek services, please contact Pastor Courtney for more information.



Participants

- Worship Leaders: Pastor Courtney Steitz, Pastor Michael TeKrony
Denise Ikenberry, Gaylene Szaltzer, Michael Boehm, Eric Kurtz
- Musicians: Jordan Ortman, Eric Kurtz