



Mid-Week Lent Worship

March 10 , 2021

PRELUDE

“Elegy”

- Samuel Coleridge Taylor

“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'm so Glad Trouble Don't Last Always

The central question for a slave was: Where is that line between dignity and nothingness? They knew any open assertion of their being would be regarded as a threat and so they lived with the constant threat of death. To stay alive in dignity was the essential task of the slave community.

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

**I'm so glad trouble don't last always.
I'm so glad trouble don't last always.
I'm so glad trouble don't last always.
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do?**

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

Matthew 25:34-40

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,^[a] you did it to me.' ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

REFLECTION

Oscar Romero

Oscar Romero was an Archbishop in El Salvador in the 1970s, here is an excerpt from one of his homilies: "The Christian religion is not one-dimensional, spiritualistic, unmindful of the misery that surrounds us. Rather, our religion beholds God and from the perspective of God sees the neighbor as brother or sister and becomes aware that 'What you did for one of these least brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me.' I hope that all the movements active in social matters are aware of this doctrine. If they are, they will avoid failure and the short-sightedness that is unable to see beyond worldly realities and temporal structures. As long as our hearts are not converted, as long as our lives are not based on this doctrine that is enlightened by faith to help us to harmonize our hearts with the heart of God, then everything will be feeble, revolutionary, passing, and violent. None of these things is Christian... How enlightened the world would be if all of us took [this] social doctrine of the church as the basis of our social action, our existence, and our concrete commitments in political and economic affairs."

How might God be inviting you to make your faith more concrete?
Why is it so important that our faith motivate us to action in the world?

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'm so Glad Trouble Don't Last Always

**Make more room, Lord, in my heart for Thee.
Make more room, Lord, in my heart for Thee.
Make more room, Lord, in my heart for Thee.
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do?**

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

"Offering"

- H. Leslie Adams

"King of Kings" Organ Music 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