



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

*First Sunday of Lent*  
**March 6, 2022**

### **Thoughts of Preparation – "From Here in the Sand"**

You've been here before. I squeeze that truth like an orange in my hands,  
willing some form of comfort to run out, roll down my wrists, calm these aching nerves.

You've been here before—in the wilderness, in the desert,  
in the place where nothing is what it seems and everything is sharp.

You've been here before so surely you know how hard it is  
to hold tight to what is real in the middle of a storm.

But because you've been here before, I will stand tall.

I will sing songs of the river, from here in the sand.

I will sing songs of the river, into the wind.

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude**

*"What A Friend We Have In Jesus" (Albin Whitworth)  
(Kendra Abner ~ Flute)*

### **Tower Bell**

### **\*Responsive Call to Worship**

Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

**Jesus went into the city to heal.**

Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

**Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.**

Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

**but Jesus also went to the wilderness.**

There is nowhere we can go that God does not walk with us.

**We are in God's house. Let us worship Holy God.**

### **\*Call to Confession**

Friends, we worship a God who doesn't keep score and doesn't hold grudges. We worship a God who invites us into a richer faith, a deeper love, a more compassionate existence with a million chances to try again. So let us speak truth into our lives, asking for God's help where we need it. Let us pray the prayer of confession together.

**\*Responsive Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, when we think that expansive life is about power—

**Teach us a new way.**

Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life is about material wealth—

**Teach us a new way.**

Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life is about control—

**Teach us a new way.**

Teach us to live as you live.

**Teach us to love as you love.**

Forgive us when we don't.

**Gratefully we pray, amen.**    *(Silence is kept)*

**\*Words of Assurance**

Siblings in Christ, no matter how many times we mess up, no matter how far we wander, no matter how lost we feel, God's grace is full to the brim. It overflows in desert places. It finds us where we are and it covers us in mercy. Hear and believe this good news—

**God's love is overflowing. We are drenched in mercy. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*(Creatorex)*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**Gathering Together in Prayer  
Silent Prayer—Pastoral Prayer**

## Offertory Invitation

With thanksgiving let us bring our offerings to the Lord, remembering that “alms giving” has always been a special appointment for the season of Lent!

## Offertory

*“Thou Art Holy”* (Craig Courtney)

Holy, holy, holy, Thou art holy.  
Thou alone art holy, Thou art holy.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty,  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee,  
who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide Thee,  
though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,  
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Thou art holy, Thou alone art holy.

## Scripture Lesson: Luke 4:1-13

**4** Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, **2** where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. **3** The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” **4** Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

**5** Then the devil<sup>a</sup> led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. **6** And the devil<sup>a</sup> said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. **7** If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” **8** Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” **9** Then the devil<sup>a</sup> took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, **10** for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,

to protect you, <sup>11</sup> and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

## **Sermon**

“Even—Especially?--In The Desert”

Pastor Barry Bordenkircher

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

We believe God is love.

**We believe God's love is overflowing.**

We believe Jesus is a river.

**We believe that river is running toward us.**

We believe the Holy Spirit is a vessel.

**We believe that vessel holds mercy for you and for me.**

We believe the wilderness is real.

**We believe the desert is lonely.**

We believe that Jesus has been there.

**We know that we do not walk alone.**

Even in the desert, we are loved.

**Even in the desert, God is with us.**

**Even in the desert, this love overflows.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **Gathering At The Lord's Table – Holy Communion**

### **Invitation to the Table**

Jesus has always been one to invite. He said, “Drop your nets and follow me.” He said, “Let the little children come.” He said, “Stand up from your mat, you are healed.” Jesus has always been one to invite, and that has not changed. So friends, you are invited to this Table. Each and every one of us—with our doubts, our fears, our scars, our joy, our dreams, our hopes, our questions—we are invited to God's table. And here we will be met. Here we will be fed. Here we are given a taste of an expansive life that is full to the brim with love, overflowing with joy. So

come. Not because you must, but because you can. Come. You are invited. God seeks you, wants to fill you—to the brim—with good things, especially, divine love. This Table is for you.

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God who knows us, we are amazed by You. Your love never runs out, Your hope never runs dry, Your joy never gives up. We wish that we could be more like You in that way. In a world that loves scarcity, Your abundance is shocking. In a world that knows fear, Your joy is compelling. In a world that knows anxiety, Your peace is captivating. We long for these things.

**So today we ask You—be with us on the hamster wheel.**

Be with us when compassion fatigue rears her head.

**Be with us when stress makes it hard to breathe.**

Be with us when self-doubt pushes in close.

**Be with us when exhaustion becomes constant or when loneliness becomes our primary language. Be with us, and show us the way to the life You long for us.**

Show us a life of expansive faith.

**Show us a life of overflowing joy.**

Show us a life of absorbing beauty.

**Show us a life of engrossing purpose.**

Show us a life that is as honest, and rich, and meaningful as the one Jesus led. And until that expansive and holy day, we will continue to gather at this Table. Until that day we will continue to look for You in our midst. So pour out a double portion of Yourself onto this bread and cup so that we might catch a glimpse of Your goodness.

God, we are amazed by You.

Your love never runs out, so bring that never-ending love here.

Together we pray:

*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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

**\*Receiving the Communion Elements**

*Everyone is invited to come forward today to the Communion Table  
to receive today's elements...and more!*

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Thank You, Loving God, for sharing this meal with us, for sharing  
Your life with us, for sharing Your promise of eternity with us now.  
We go as emissaries of Your love and power, to reconcile the  
divided, to restore the fragmented, and to embrace the rejected in  
Jesus' Name. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #501**      *"Guide Me, O thou Great Jehovah"* (CWM Rhondda)  
(see last page)

**\*Lenten Series Benediction**

As You leave this place, may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world. May you laugh, and may it be contagious. May you overflow with love for those around you. May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy. And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change your life. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

**Postlude**

*"Chaconne"*

*(Louis Couperin)*

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

Most of our liturgy for the **Lenten season** will be adapted from “Full to the Brim,” a complete worship, media, and art series from *A Sanctified Art*.

ALL of today’s liturgy, including *’From Here in the Sand’* is adapted from the work of Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. – except the **Offering Dedication** (from *re:Worship*) and the **Communion Thanksgiving** (*Sacredise*).



### **Today’s Worship Leaders:**

Preaching Today: Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Rose Wendling

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

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# 501 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land;  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;

I am weak, but thou art might - y—hold me with thy power - ful hand:  
 let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through:  
 bear me through the swell - ing cur - rent, land me safe on Ca - naan's side:

Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no  
 Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and  
 Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to

more, (want no more,) feed me till I want no more.  
 shield, (strength and shield,) be thou still my strength and shield.  
 thee, (give to thee,) I will ev - er give to thee.