

Minister: The Rev. Elisabeth Bachem-Jennings
Organist: Deirdre Morrell-Ormerod B.Mus.Ed.,LicMus.M.M.

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Lenten Theme: The Wilderness Journey

March 11, 2018

Gathering the Community

[* indicates to stand, if able]

The Organ Prelude will commence at 11:00 AM. Please remain seated and use the time during this period to prepare quietly for our time of worship together.

Organ Prelude
Welcome & Introduction to the Service
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Silence

* Call to Worship

Have you ever underestimated the compassion that is in Jesus?

We are too easily convinced that he frowns more than smiles, that our weakness and ignorance, our mistakes and sins, guarantee nothing but judgement from God.

Yet, time and again Jesus show us that this picture is unworthy of God; after all, he said it - he didn't come to judge but to save!

And so, we come to celebrate and thank God in worship.

* Prayer of Gathering

Holy One, you made yourself known in Jesus: In him your compassion is limitless, and your love is unending; your welcome is gracious and extravagant and all-inclusive; your embrace is healing and transforming; And your commitment to us is costly and eternal. Perhaps we will never really understand how you can be so totally for us, but perhaps, as we learn to trust, and to lean into your love, we will find the peace and wholeness that you desire for us. May it be so for us.

*** Hymn: "O God who loves all humankind"**
[Voices United #608 vs.1,4,5]

Prayer of Confession (*seated*)
Invitation to Prayer
(*Bell sounds begin and end a time of silent prayer*)
Words of Assurance

Anthem: "You raise me up"

Hearing the Word

A reading from: Matthew 7:13-23
Wide gate and narrow path
The Psalm: 146 pg.868
A reading from: Luke 23:35-43
Two attitudes of people facing death

*** Hymn: "Now quit your care"**
[Voices United #109 vs. 1-2 &4-5]

Sermon Series: The BIG Questions
Today: "Why do Christians believe they are the only ones who go to heaven?"

A moment of Silence is kept

Responding to the Word

Offering our Gifts

* **The Doxology: "What Can I Do"** *[More Voices #191]*

Offertory Prayer

Preparing for Service During the Week

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer *(sung)*

[Voices United #960]

Announcements & Notices

* **Parting Hymn: "There's a wideness in God's mercy"**

[Voices United #271]

* Commissioning

Sung Blessing: "May the Love of the Lord"

[see inside front cover of Voices United]

Next week:

**Theme: How do we keep the faith with all the things
that are happening in the world?**

Readings: **1st Peter 3:13-17**
Psalm 137 p.858
John 12:20-36

"I am not going to Heaven because I have preached to great crowds or read the Bible many times. I'm going to Heaven just like the thief on the cross who said in that last moment: 'Lord, remember me'."

Billy Graham (1918-2018)