

March 22, 2009 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 am

Third Sunday in Lent

Liturgical Color: Purple

Preparation for Worship and Announcements

Dr. Mary Lynn Polk, Lay Leader

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name.

Chiming of the Hour

In silence and reverence, let us prepare our hearts for worship.

Prelude

Chorale in E Minor

Harmonized by J.S. Bach

Chiming of the Trinity

*Call to Worship

Ronda Rogers, Children's Coordinator

Leader: Light has entered our world; rejoice! Light is God's gift to each, and to all together.

People: **Give thanks to God for days of watchful care. The steadfast love of God endures forever.**

Leader: Let those whom God has redeemed rejoice! Let them tell the world of God's good news!

People: **We will thank God for wonderful works. We will rejoice in God's love for all humankind.**

Leader: By God's word, we are delivered from destruction. By God's mercy, we are healed and made whole.

People: **Our voices will join in songs of joy. Our lives will offer sacrifices of thanksgiving.**

*Hymn No. 98

To God Be the Glory

To God Be The Glory

Call to Confession (*You are invited to the altar for personal prayer time.*)

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

Healing God, we are sick through our sinful ways. We are impatient, complaining, and troubled. We love the night because it hides the evil we have done and the doubt that shows on our faces. By our self-indulgent habits, we are destroying ourselves and depriving others. As a church, we seem content to be dead in our trespasses, for we are afraid to embrace the changes that come with the new life you offer. We cry out to you in our trouble. Save us from our distress. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

God loved the world so much that Jesus Christ was sent to show us the way to eternal life. We are not condemned, but offered saving grace. Come to the light. Let its warmth melt away our resistance to God's truth. We are re-created in Jesus Christ that we may do the good that God intends and make that goodness our way of life. Praise God!

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

Page 174 (OT) in pew Bibles

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem (See insert for words)

What Wondrous Love Is This

arr. Evelyn R. Larter

Chancel Choir with Nancy Ditto, violin

†Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:4-10

Page 235 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

Lord's Prayer (In Unison)

Offering

Offertory

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

*Doxology No. 95

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

Children's Time

Susan Pinckney

All children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message. Following Children's Time, 3-year-olds through Kindergarteners may leave the Sanctuary for Extended Session.

*Passing of the Peace

*Hymn No. 381

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Bradbury

*Affirmation of Faith No. 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Gloria Patri No. 70

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.

*Gospel Lesson

John 3:14-21

Page 114 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"The Master Plan and Me"

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

*Hymn No. 378

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace

*Benediction

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

*Benediction Response No. 666

Shalom to You

SHALOM

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

*Postlude

†Sermon Text

*Please stand if you are able

Nursery Provided