

**WE GATHER**  
**“GOD LOVES THE WORLD, HAS LOVED THE WORLD AND**  
**CONTINUES TO LOVE THE WORLD”**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Introduction**

**Territorial Acknowledgment:**

**Introit:**

**Extinguishing the Lenten Candles:**

“We remember times when we experienced chaos in our lives because we did not trust God.”

**WE ENTER INTO GOD’S PRESENCE**

**Call to Worship: Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22 (Roni Beharry)**

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

God’s love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—

those God redeemed from the hand of the foe,

those the LORD gathered from the lands,  
from east and west, from north and south.

Some became fools through their rebellious ways  
and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.

They loathed all food

and drew near the gates of death.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,

and he saved them from their distress.

He sent out his word and healed them;

he rescued them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to the LORD for

his unfailing love

and his wonderful deeds for

humankind.

Let them sacrifice thank offerings

and tell of his works with songs of joy.

**Opening Prayer:**

God of immeasurable grace,

you meet us in our time of need

and cause your face to shine upon us.

You sent your Son Jesus into the world,  
that we might be saved;  
and you fashioned us into vessels  
of your love and light.

Redeem us this day, O God,

that we may be found worthy

of the one who came to bring us life. **Amen.**

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**Opening Hymn:** “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” VU#288

**Words of Assurance:** (Roni Beharry)

“Though we sometimes act as if the odds are stacked against us,  
we yearn to rest in the knowledge that your steadfast love endures  
forever.” We listen for God’s love revealed through the scriptures.

**THE WORD**

One: Your Word is a lamp to our feet; (Roni Beharry)

**All: And a light on our path.**

**Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love. Amen.**

**The Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21: 4-9**

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

**One:** Listen to what the Spirit is saying through the wilderness.

**All: Come and pray in us Holy Spirit.**

## **Gospel Reading: John 3: 14-21**

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

**One:** This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

*ALL: Glory to you O Christ.*

**Prayer of Invocation:**

**Reflection:** “God loves the world. How much?”

**Hymn of Ascription:** “What wondrous love is this?” VU#147  
vs. 1,2,3 (*piano solo*)

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Announcements:**

**Invitation to offer of ourselves:**

**Offertory Blessing:** (*Elizabeth Henderson*)

**God of light and love,**  
as Jesus shined your light into our troubled world,  
may our offering brings rays of your holy light  
into the dismal corners of the world. Amen.

**The Memory Candle:** (*Elizabeth Henderson*)

**Prayers of the People:** (*Roni Beharry*)

### **SENT TO SHOW CHRIST’S LOVE**

**Hymn:** “Will Your Anchor Hold?” VU#675

**Benediction:** (*Roni Beharry*)

God sends us forth with the immeasurable gift of faith.

**We live in the joy of our salvation,**

God sends us forth to walk in the light of holy love.

**We will walk in the light of Christ.**

God sends us forth in spirit and in truth.

**We will journey in the Spirit’s tender mercies.**

Go with the blessings of God.

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Now, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you this day and always.

**Go now in peace:**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.**

**God will go with you each hour of every day.**

**Go now in faith, stead-fast, strong and true.**

**Know God will guide you in all you do.**

**Go now in love, and show you believe.**

**Reach out to others so all the world can see.**

**God will be there watching from above.**

**Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

**Postlude**



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*Emmanuel United Church shall be a caring,  
welcoming faith community, nurturing  
spiritual life and sharing God's love  
and grace as experienced in Jesus Christ.*