

**WE GATHER**  
**“CONFESSING THE FAITH”**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT: MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

**Introduction**

**Territorial Acknowledgment**

**Introit:**

**Extinguishing the Lenten Candles: “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.” Ps. 51**

**WE ENTER INTO GOD’S PRESENCE**

(Liturgy for this week’s service of worship is written by, Bob Rhodes in the Abingdon Worship Annual 2021 for the Fifth Sunday in Lent.)

**Centering words:** *(Elizabeth Henderson)*

We are being transformed. God is already at work in us, renewing our spirits. Anticipate the new thing that God is doing. Can you feel it?

**Call to Worship (Psalm 51, John 12)** *(Elizabeth Henderson)*

Have mercy on your people, O God.

**Wash us. Cleanse us.**

**Make us more perfect in your love.**

Open the skies and pour down your grace upon your people.

**Open our hearts to hear your voice.**

**Let your Holy presence awaken us!**

Have mercy on your people, O God.

**Restore within us the joy of your salvation.**

**Draw us nearer to Jesus, our Christ!**

**Opening Prayer:**

God of love and mercy, open our hearts to your presence as we worship you this day.

Whether our prayers are filled with celebration or with loud cries and tears, remind us that you are the source of our eternal salvation.

Give us the strength to respond faithfully to your transforming love, that the joy of your salvation

might shine in and through us all.

Wipe away our wrongdoing,

Cleanse our hearts, and make us more perfect.

For it is in your perfect love

that we are drawn more fully into your image.

In the name of the glorified Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:** “Come touch our hearts” MV#12

**Words of Assurance: (Hebrews 5. Psalm 51)**

*(Elizabeth Henderson)*

In the grace of God, through the love of Jesus Christ,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit,

we are saved from brokenness and sin

and are restored to the joy of God’s salvation. Glory to God! **Amen.**

**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: Jeremiah 31: 31-34**

**A New Covenant**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**One:** Listen to what the Spirit is saying through the voice of the prophet.

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

**Gospel Reading: John 12: 20-33** (*Bud McMartin*)

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

**Jesus Speaks about His Death**

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say -"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

*ALL: Glory to you O Christ.*

**Psalm 51: 1-12** (*Read by: Roni Beharry*)

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence

and blameless when you pass judgement.  
Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.  
We join our prayers with the prayers of the psalmist.

**Prayer of Invocation:**

**Reflection:** "Why Does Confession Matter?" (*Roni Beharry*)

**Hymn of Ascription:** "Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New"

MV#115

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Announcements:**

**Invitation to offer of ourselves:**

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

**Generous and all-loving God,  
grant us the wisdom to know you more completely.  
Give us the hope to live as your people.  
Inspire us to give of our spirits more fully,  
in the faith that your promise is already within us.  
As we give our gifts today,  
we recommit ourselves to your service  
and to the service of your people.  
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**The Memory Candle:** (Roni Beharry)

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

**SENT TO SHOW CHRIST'S LOVE**

**Hymn:** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" VU#149

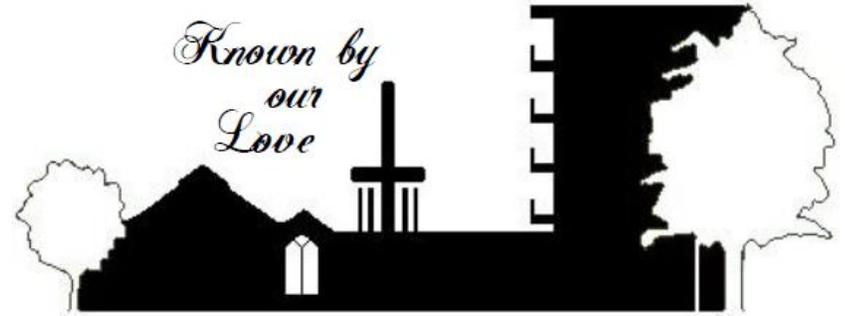
**Benediction:** (Roni Beharry)

Go in anticipation of the saving love of Jesus Christ!  
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 forevermore.

**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, steady, 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**



*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.*

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*Please note that Rev. Roni is off Monday & Tuesday.*

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