

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday March 10th

Lent: Sanctified Art, Wandering Heart

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HANDBELL PRELUDE

O Sacred Head Now Wounded, Arnold B. Sherman (OneL)

*OPENING HYMN Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (pub dom)

UMH 400

*CALL TO WORSHIP

On our worst days,

God is good.

On our best days,

God is good.

When life is consistent,

God is good.

And when life turns on its head,

God is good.

Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

God is good. God is here. God is love.

Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (Liturgist)

There's a moment in our scripture today when Jesus turns to Peter, named "the rock" of the church,

and says, "Get behind me, Satan!"

I don't know about you all, but that's a pretty bad day for Peter.

It's a pretty bad day when Jesus calls you Satan!

Fortunately, this absurd moment comforts me with the knowledge that even Peter made mistakes.

Peter, who was given the keys to Heaven. Peter, Jesus' right-hand man, made mistakes just like me.

And still, Jesus chose him.

Knowing that, let us speak honestly with God. For even on our worst days, we belong to God, and that will never change.

Join me in prayer—

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God,

We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense.

Like Peter, we want to yell out, "This should not happen!"

We want to control scenarios beyond our reach.

We want to hold your world in our hands.

Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity.

Forgive us for arguing when we could listen.

Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many.

Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen.

With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (Liturgist)

Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God, no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change—we worship a God of grace.

Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Pour water into the baptismal font as you speak the following lines. |

God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine.
We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven.
Now follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world.
Amen.

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER He's Got the Whole World in
His Hands

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Pastor Andrew

ANTHEM: Take Me Back to the Cross, by Stan Pethel (OneL)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (pastor)

Listening God,
If we could attach ourselves to you, we would.
We would scribble your scripture onto our tender hearts.
We would weave your good news into the fiber of our being.
We would bind ourselves to you,
but instead,
we wander.
Instead of attaching ourselves to you,
we find ourselves swept up in the business of the day.
Like a seesaw of faithfulness, we move back and forth, up and down,
constantly trying to find you in the midst of it all.
So speak clearly to us now.
Quiet the distractions long enough for us to affix ourselves to your
good news.
We are listening.
We are hungry.
We are hopeful.
Amen.

LESSON I **PSALM 107: 1-3 , 17-22 CEB**

**“Give thanks to the Lord because he is good,
because his faithful love lasts forever!”**

**² That’s what those who are redeemed by the Lord say,
the ones God redeemed from the power of their enemies,
³ the ones God gathered from various countries,
from east and west, north and south.**

**Some of the redeemed were fools because of their sinful ways.
They suffered because of their wickedness.**

**¹⁸ They had absolutely no appetite for food;
they had arrived at death’s gates.**

**¹⁹ So they cried out to the Lord in their distress,
and God saved them from their desperate circumstances.**

**²⁰ God gave the order and healed them;
he rescued them from their pit.**

**²¹ Let them thank the Lord for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all people.**

**²² Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
and declare what God has done in songs of joy!**

May God add a Blessing to this reading.

***LESSON 2: MATTHEW 16:21-23 CEB**

21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. 22 Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: “God forbid, Lord! This won’t happen to you.” 23 But he turned to Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

but with our whole lives. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in a God of second chances,
**a God who sees through my stubbornness
and holds my fear with tenderness.**

I believe that this God of second chances
uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.
Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the
impossible.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.
**This change is holy and important work, although challenging.
When fear and scarcity plague me,
or when the impossible feels out of reach,
I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to
follow.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Amen.

*BENEDICTION and RESPONSE

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes (portions of Verses 3
and 3) TFWS 2138

POSTLUDE