

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday April 6th

5th Sunday of Lent

Sanctified Art: Everything In-Between

Theme: Righteousness & Mercy

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “The Passion Chorale” Austin

*SONG OF WELCOME “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” UMH #277

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We come to worship because we long for mercy.

P: We long for community.

We long for God.

L: We come to worship because we need a good word.

P: We need connection.

We need moral reminders.

L: We come to worship because we are in between:

P: hope and grief,

faith and doubt,

joy and longing,

curiosity and conviction.

L: So we come to worship and God meets us here.

P: Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (liturgist)

L: God meets us in the night—

P: before the sun rises, before the wound heals, before there are answers, before there is closure.

L: God meets us in the light—

P: where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, where people gather around tables.

L: God meets us in between—

P: at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness, at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.

L: And if God meets us in all those places, then surely God meets us everywhere—

P: at the water's edge, at the start of something new, after the baptism, and before the call.

L: We are not alone. God is all around.

P: Let us worship the God of everything.

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Jesus Loves Me
CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM "Let Us Serve Him" (OneLic) Price/Besig

TIME OF PRAYER
SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN "It Is Well With My Soul" UMH #377

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (liturgist)

Loving God,

Week after week we return to this space,
because we long to see you.

Like Zacchaeus who climbed a tree
to get a peek at you as you walked by,
we come to this sanctuary hoping to get a peek
of your goodness,
of your joy,
of your light.

So speak to us through these ancient words.

Let us get a peek of the love that lingers here.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

*LESSON Luke 19:1-10 CEB

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. ² A man there named Zacchaeus, a ruler among tax collectors, was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but, being a short man, he couldn't because of the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today." ⁶ So Zacchaeus came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus.

⁷ Everyone who saw this grumbled, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I repay them four times as much."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today, salvation has come to this household because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ The Human One came to seek and save the lost."

This is the Word of God for all people.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Righteousness & Mercy

*HYMN “Righteous Mercy”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, our faith calls us to live with both mercy and righteousness. Somewhere along the way, however, we have forgotten that truth. Somewhere along the way, we began arguing about who deserves mercy and whether or not they had acted with enough righteousness to receive it. Fortunately, God does not act that way. No matter what mistakes we have made or wrong turns we've taken, God consistently meets us with mercy and invites us to try again. So let us lean into that good news, and go to God in prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Merciful God,
When we fail to be righteous,
show us mercy.
When we fail to be merciful,
show us what is right.
Again and again,
bring us closer to you.
Again and again,
show us the way.
Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

L Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:
When we fail to be righteous,

P: God is merciful.

L: When we fail to be merciful,

P: God invites us to try again.

L: Again and again,

P: God moves closer to us.

L: Again and again,

P: God shows us the way.

L: Thanks be to God for this unending love.

P: Amen.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

**In a world that loves to cast blame
and point fingers,
Jesus loved by different rules.
He offered mercy.
He invited people to dinner.
He told stories of love.
He chose to see the best in others.**

**We believe that small acts of mercy
and compassion have ripple effects in our lives.
We believe that small acts of righteousness
and justice are integral to a life of faith.
So like Christ, we believe in
offering mercy,
inviting people to dinner,
telling stories of love,
and choosing to see the best in others.
With God's help, may it be so. Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

"Live in Charity" (Latin)

TFWS #2179

POSTLUDE