



welcome to worship
march 22, 2020



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WORSHIP SERVICE

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Prelude

Words of Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

***Call to Worship from Psalm 34:1-3, 8, 19-22**

*I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. I will glory in the Lord! **Let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord; let us exalt his name together.** Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.*

The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers from them all; he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.

Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned. But the Lord will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

Praise

***Song of Praise**

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God” (#776 vs. 1-4)

***God’s Greeting**

Renewal

Call to Lament and Confession based on Lamentations 1 & Luke 13

How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are on her cheeks. The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed festivals. All her gateways are empty; her priests groan, her maidens grieve, and she is in bitter anguish. All her people cry out as they search for bread; they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive. She says, “Look, Lord, and consider, for I am despised. The Lord is righteous, yet I rebelled against his command. Listen, all you peoples; look on my suffering. My children have gone into exile. May you, Lord, bring the day you announced, so that my

enemies may become like me. Deal with them as you have dealt with me, because of all my sins.”

God calls on us all to lament and repent over the effects of sin in our broken world. As Jesus said, “What about those eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

Prayer of Confession:

God, we confess that we are impatient and selfish people. When you offer us the promise of a new future, we complain that you don’t get there fast enough. When you provide for our needs, we complain that it isn’t enough. And when our bad attitudes and negative outlooks cause us to stumble, we blame you. Holy God, forgive our sinful ways. Teach us to be patient. Instruct us to be grateful. Guide us to be responsible and humble. As we turn ourselves around and look to the cross, let us experience your grace and your gift of new life. In the name of Christ our Savior, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (from Isaiah 66 & 2 Timothy 1)

The Lord declares, “These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word. As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me, so will your name and descendants endure.” God’s favor and enduring love have been revealed to us in Christ, as Paul wrote to Timothy, “God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News.”

Friends, this is the good news we have through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Response of Gratitude: “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” (#457 vs. 1-4)

RESPONSE

Prayers of the People

A Reminder of How to Tithe and Give Offerings

PROCLAMATION

Scripture: John 13: 1-17

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: I Believe in the Son, Our Lord

SENDING

***Benediction**

***Doxology** “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow” (#965)

Postlude

Participants:

Minister: Rev. Mark Hofman

Pianist: Carrie Dole

****If you would like to continue to tithe, you can send checks to the church (2914 Encinal Avenue, Alameda CA 94501) or visit our church’s main page website (www.alamedacrc.com) to donate digitally via Paypal. The deacons will continue to make sure our policies and guidelines are followed when it comes to financial protocol.**