

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday of Lent

March 14, 2021

*You are invited to observe silence for one minute, breathing in and out,
centering yourself on the renewing and healing presence
of the Holy Spirit with us.*

VOLUNTARY

Melody Davis

OPENING HYMN 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

CALL TO CONFESSION

In becoming one of us, God became poor so we could receive the riches of mercy. In coming to us, God took on our death, so we could be made alive together with Christ. So, come. Offer your confessions, knowing that by grace you have been saved.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful and loving God, help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders your life-giving love to shine through our lives. Strengthen us with your Spirit to be credible witnesses of your love as we experience it in and through Jesus, your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

How much does God love us? Enough to send the divine heart, hope, and spirit to us, not to condemn us, but to save us. Not by our speaking or doing, but by God's good and precious grace are we saved. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving and gracious God, your presence is woven into the fabric of our days, as near to us as our own breath. May the Holy Spirit open us now to your word in Holy Scripture so that we might sense your great love for us and be transformed by it. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 139*)

Numbers 21: 4-9

⁴From 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. ⁵The 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." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The 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. ⁸And 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." ⁹So 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.

We come to you in prayer, O God. We thank you for your steadfast love and your wonderful works. Remake our lives as thanksgiving sacrifices. Send us forth to tell of your deeds with songs of joy. Hear these and all our prayers, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to save us, saying: **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Scripture says, I don't speak from want because I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*True Light
Sanctuary Choir*

Keith Hampton

RESPONSE 605 Praise to God, the Father

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, may we never take the gifts of life for granted or fail to give you thanksgiving. May what we have offered today be used for your purpose and in your time. Amen.

DISMISSAL AND BENEDICTION

May God our Maker
send us back into the world
with creative energies refreshed.

May Christ the Light
illuminate our darkest moments.

And may the Holy Spirit of steadfast love
guide us until we worship together again.
This day and forevermore.

Amen!

CLOSING HYMN 377 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*