

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 2009

10:50 AM

As with God's mercy and grace, so also with God's love – it reveals God as the One who cares for creation. God's mercy gives hope to the weary. God's grace gives new life to all who believe. God's love gives light to the world. In Jesus Christ the fullness of God is made known once and for all. So hope in Christ that you may be strong; have faith and receive the gift that is eternal; live in love and let the light shine. "For God so loved the world . . ."

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available in the Educational Wing.

WELCOME/MEDITATION

All are asked to complete the attendance register in the pew and pass it along to each person. Please indicate any prayer concerns also to be given to the ushers during the offering.

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Come from your exile to meet the God who sets us free.

What does it mean to be free? How can we make the choices freedom offers?

Come from lives of unfaithfulness to encounter the God whose care is unceasing.

What does faithfulness require of us? How can we, unworthy ones, accept God's care?

Come from the shadows where you have hidden to rejoice in the God who brings light and hope.

What will happen when our deeds are revealed? How will our lives be changed by God's truth?

* Hymn *Come, We that Love the Lord* Page 732

*Invocation

* Hymn of Praise *Lord, Be Glorified* TFWS 2150

PROCLAMATION

Old Testament Lesson *Numbers 21:4-9* O. T. Page 139

The people's complaining brought death in the form of serpents. God offered healing from the serpents' bite for all who would look upon a bronze serpent Moses fashioned and lifted on a pole.

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message Jeannie Wermuth

Children's Church (Children age 4 through 1st grade may go to the Children's Church Room)

Prayers of the People

The 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, forever. Amen.

*Hymn *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* Page 301

*Gospel Lesson *John 3:14-21* N. T. Page 94

Jesus offers two meta-narratives to help Nicodemus understand the meaning of God's salvation through him – Moses lifting up the serpent, and God's free gift of eternal life to all who will "believe into" (i.e., live as disciples of) Jesus.

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Message *Living or Dying With Snakes* Rev. Charles Swadley

RESPONSE

Offertory Prayer Unison

Let us pray: **We bring our treasure, O God, not to build monuments to ourselves, but to send messengers of your good news to all the world. We dedicate these gifts, not so much to enhance the programs and ministries of this congregation as for the sheer joy of proclaiming your goodness among all people. May our gifts reflect the depths of love we have known, and that we want to share. Amen.**

Offertory Anthem *Seek Ye The Lord* Harlan

*Doxology Page 95

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

*Apostles Creed Page 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn *O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go* Page 480

*Commission and Blessing

Go forth in freedom, to make the choices of another week.

We rejoice in the promise of God's mercy and the assurance of God's guidance.

Go forth in faithfulness, knowing God will not leave or forsake you.

We give thanks for God's steadfast love and the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Go forth in light, seeking God's truth in all circumstances.

We celebrate the gospels's transforming power and the brightness of God's new day. Amen.

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

***Postlude**

***Please stand as you are able. Hearing devices are available (special loops for hearing aids). Large print bulletins are now available. Please see an usher for assistance**

Welcome! We are so pleased that you have chosen to worship with us on this day. Your presence is an encouragement and inspiration to us. Let us celebrate our faith and offer our thanks and praise to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon us. If you desire to join our church, please speak to Rev. Charles Swadley or Rev. Bruce Lake. Membership occurs with Profession of Faith or a Letter of Transfer from another United Methodist Church or other Christian Church.

The **Flowers** on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of my husband, William E. Roberts by Dee Roberts. The **Lay Reader** is Dina Giese. The **Acolytes** are Alexandria Smith and Emory Magner. The **Crucifer** is Jess Wade. **First Response Team:** Stony and Dale Creery. The **Greeters** are Hal and Doris Costley. The **Outside Greeters** are Buddy Arbogast, Stony Creery and Ned Custis. The **Lay Speaker** is Polly Rowan.

**Lakeside
United
Methodist
Church**

Church Staff:

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Pastor
Pastor of Visitation Ministries
Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Organist
Pre-School Director
Ashland District Superintendent
Virginia Conference Bishop
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We envision churches where all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world

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