



My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Mark 15:25-32

MARCH 14 2021

Pastoral Welcome and Announcements

Thoughts for the Day:

- ❖ “Christ’s own ‘God-forsaken-ness’ on the cross showed me where God is present, where God had been present in those nights of deaths in the firestorms in Hamburg and where God would be present in my future whatever my come.”
- Jürgen Moltmann
- ❖ “If Christ spent and anguished night in prayer, if He burst out from the Cross, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ then surely we are also permitted doubt. But we must move on. To choose doubt as a philosophy of life is akin to choosing immobility as a means of transportation.”
- Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*
- ❖ “Totally without hope one cannot live. To live without hope is to cease to live. Hell is hopelessness. It is no accident that above the entrance to Dante’s hell is the inscription: ‘Leave behind all hope, you who enter here.’”
- Jürgen Moltmann

Call to Worship:

Leader: From the valley of unbelief and doubt we come to you.

People: Save us, O Lord, from our unbelief.

Leader: From streets marked by difficulty and violence we come to you.

People: Save us, O Lord, from our own wrathful anger.

Leader: From a world where death reigns we come to you.

People: Save us, O Lord, from the death that stalks us.

Leader: From a place with no dream for the future we come to you.

People: Grant us a vision, O Lord, of what life can be like with you in it.

Song: My God – Psalm 22 (music at end of bulletin)

Our Confession:

Holy God, Creator of all life, in the face of violence on our streets and even in our workplaces and schools, we wonder where you are. In the face of an unexpected diagnosis, we wonder why you have forsaken us. In the face of

alcohol, drugs and teenage suicides, we wonder if you understand our pain. In the face of hungry children, homeless women and men, we wonder if you understand. In the face of problems that seem bigger than our prayers, it is hard to believe.

Holy God, help us in our doubt. Help us to know you are here and understand our loneliness and pain. Lead us to a deeper place, where our hearts know that in our struggles you are there and understand. Help us believe that your love surrounds us and that where you are there is new life. Amen.

Confession Response: He Knows

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7-11

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.

Gospel: Mark 15:33-34

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

Message: "Alone!?"

Message Response: Forsaken

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Sending Out:

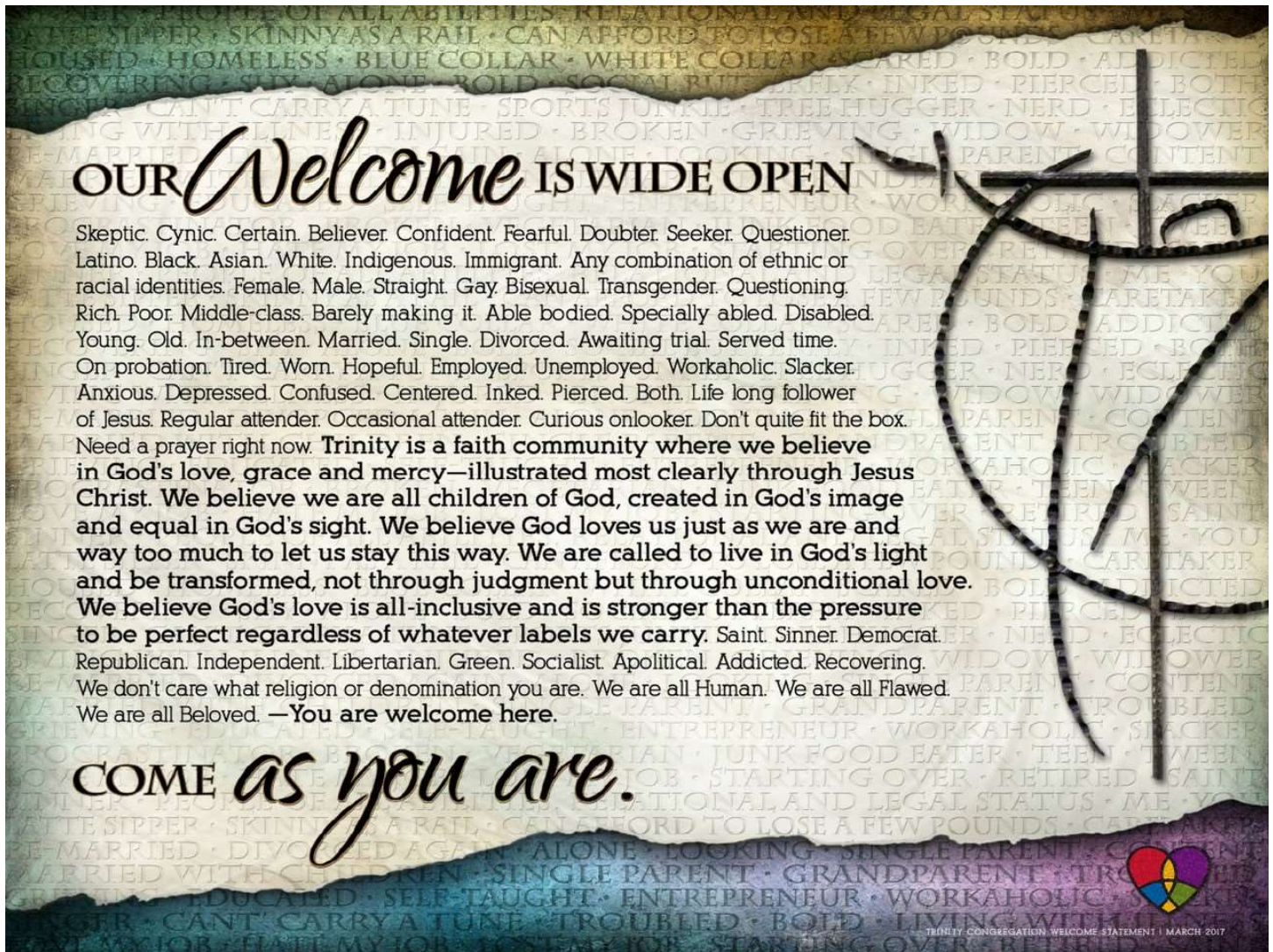
Leader: Come to us, O God, especially when things get bad, and give us strength. Don't let us be afraid. Send us out with renewed courage, spirit and voice, in the name of Jesus Christ the crucified Lord. **Amen.**

Song: *Abide With Me* (music at end of bulletin)

The Dismissal:

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



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My God - Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you a - ban - doned me?
My God, my God, I have cried so des - p'rate - ly,
still there is no help for me.
I call out to you each night and day.
My strength is gone like wa - ter on the ground.
I am help - less be - fore my en - e - mies.
You don't an - swer an - y - thing I say.
My bones cry for flesh that can't be found.
Come now quick - ly, come and res - cue me.
It was you who brought me here at birth.
My throat is dry. My tongue sticks to my mouth.
I will tell my peo - ple what you've done,
Now where are you on this trou - bled earth?
I am dy - ing, there is no way out.
that your love can save us ev - 'ry - one.



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

