

3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

Lamb of God, come into our midst. Provide us with your presence so that we might breathe together as community for a time. Clear our minds of worries and distractions. Make us present, as you are fully present with us. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

* Praise is the means by which God reveals God's self to God's people.

- C.S. Lewis (Professor and Writer)

All life ought to be worship; and we know quite well there is no chance it will be worship unless we have times when we have worship and nothing else.

- William Temple (Anglican Priest and Bishop)

❖ The Christian faith is meant to be deeply personal but never solitary.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Seek the Lord in this season of reflection and preparation.

People: We are here to seek the Lord and his favor.

Leader: Open your eyes, ears and hearts. The Lord is near those who love him and are

called by his name.

People: We are here to worship and praise the Lord whom we love.

All: Let us seek and praise the Lord our God this day. Praise the Lord.

PRAISE SONG: The Church Song (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

We confess to you, our God, and before one another that we have sinned. You open the doors of your house and invite us in not as strangers but as family. You rejoice in our being with you and delight to give us many delights. But we have other places to go and other items on our agendas. Your house is nice but not as exciting as other places we visit. We have spent such little time with you that we have forgotten the joys of coming

home. Forgive us and welcome us again into your presence. By your grace allow us to savor your loving care. Because of Jesus. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

God is always with us and invites us to hear that promise as we worship together. With joy in God's heart, we are welcomed and forgiven. May God's gracious love fill us in this time together.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: 10,000 Reasons (music at end of bulletin)

THE READING: Psalm 95:6-7

The book of Psalms contains words of humans regarding God. Here is a recognition of the holiness or special nature of God who is worthy of worship and praise. The writer compares this relationship as similar to that of a shepherd and sheep.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

THE GOSPEL: John 4:7-26

As the Gospel of John tells the story of Jesus life, a special setting is provided here for the conversation which Jesus had with a Samaritan woman at a community well, a place where people come to draw water needed for their life. In the background are two high hills or mountains which have been worship sites. Jesus suggests worshipping at specific places is not as important as just doing it anywhere to the true God.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but the water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our

ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

MESSAGE: Worship: Obligation or Opportunity Pastor David School

MESSAGE RESPONSE: The Gathering Hymn (music at end of bulletin)

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 and 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: You have come to a table where all are welcome and no one is turned away. You have been filled with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Now, let us depart from this place as individuals who are prepared to share this life-giving and sustaining bread with others.

ALL: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: Let All the People Say Amen (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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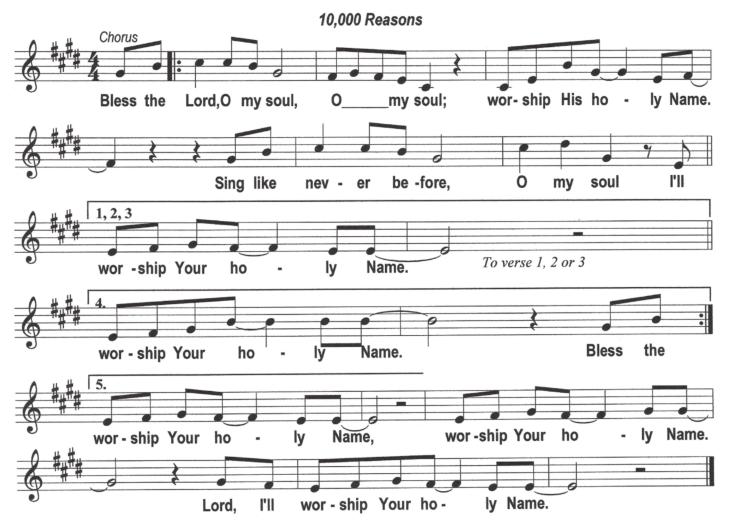
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Verse 1: The sun comes up; it's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes. (chorus)

Verse 2: You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. (chorus)
(Interlude)

Verse 3: And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come, still my soul will sing Your praise unending; ten thousand years and then forevermore! (chorus)





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