



Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. Luke 23:34

MARCH 2-3, 2024

3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

GATHERING PRAYER:

Begin this Sunday's worship with a time of silence. Our lives are far noisier than wind, fire, or earthquake. In a great paradox, God speaks to us in sheer silence. Use this chance to listen as you pray.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following Jesus, we may walk faithfully through the wilderness places of this world, toward the life you alone can give.

Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love. Strengthen us through our struggles and confusion, to work to accomplish your purposes on earth. Help us to be beacons of your love in every time and place. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." - Isaiah 41:10
- ❖ "The will of God will not take us where the grace of God cannot sustain us." - Billy Graham

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: A word spoken,

All: A voice heard,

One: A dream revealed,

All: A mission revealed.

One: God calls

All: Again and again.

One: God beckons us

All: To follow,

One: To love,

All: To serve,

One: To give.

All: Again and again

One: God invites us

All: To embrace the lonely,

One: To feed the hungry,

All: To tell the Good News of Jesus,

One: Light of the world, help us see all these people you love.

PRAISE SONG: *“Gather Us In, vs. 1-3” (music at end of bulletin)*

CONFESSION:

All: God of Light and Life, we are all born blind. We look upon the world with eyes of fear and prejudice, deceiving ourselves into believing that we can see. Help us to recognize our blindness and to ask for your healing touch. Restore our vision, that we may see the world with the compassionate eyes of Christ. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *“Mercy” (music at end of bulletin)*

THE READINGS: **Isaiah 41:10**

"Don't fear, because I am with you; don't be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will surely help you; I will hold you, with my righteous strong hand."

1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

THE GOSPEL: **John 1:14-18**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen Jesus' glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'" From Jesus' fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made God known.

MESSAGE: *“How Do We Keep Journeying?”*

- Pastor Cristy Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *“Out in the Wilderness”* (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 it is 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: Hear this command: Love one another. May God give you courage and strength to journey forward in faith. Let your compassion be infectious. Shine.

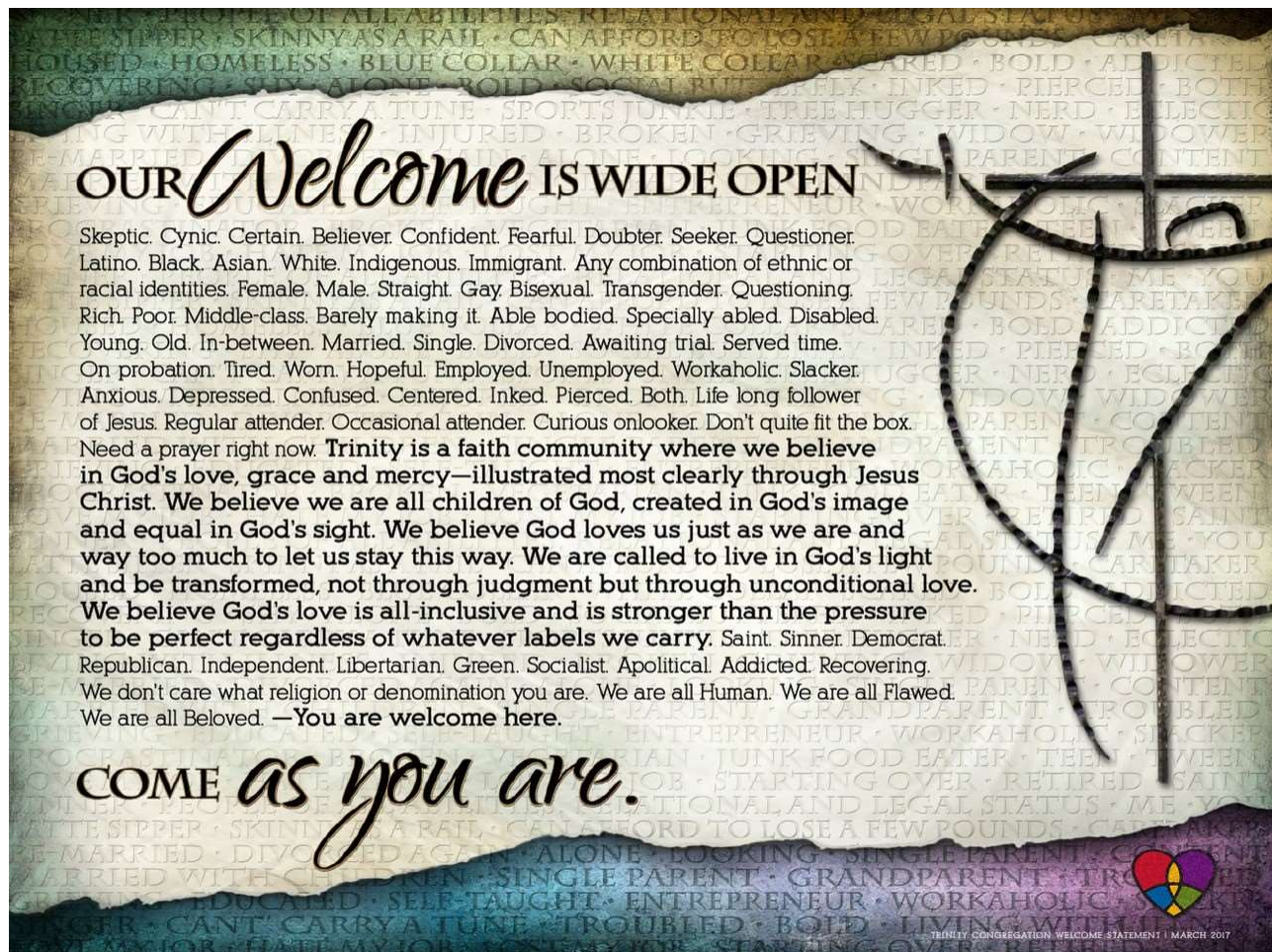
All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: *“Boundless Love”* (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go into God’s world in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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Gather Us In - ELW 532, vs. 1, 2, 3

1. Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2. We are the young, our lives are a mys- t'ry, we are the old who
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the

van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream - ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,

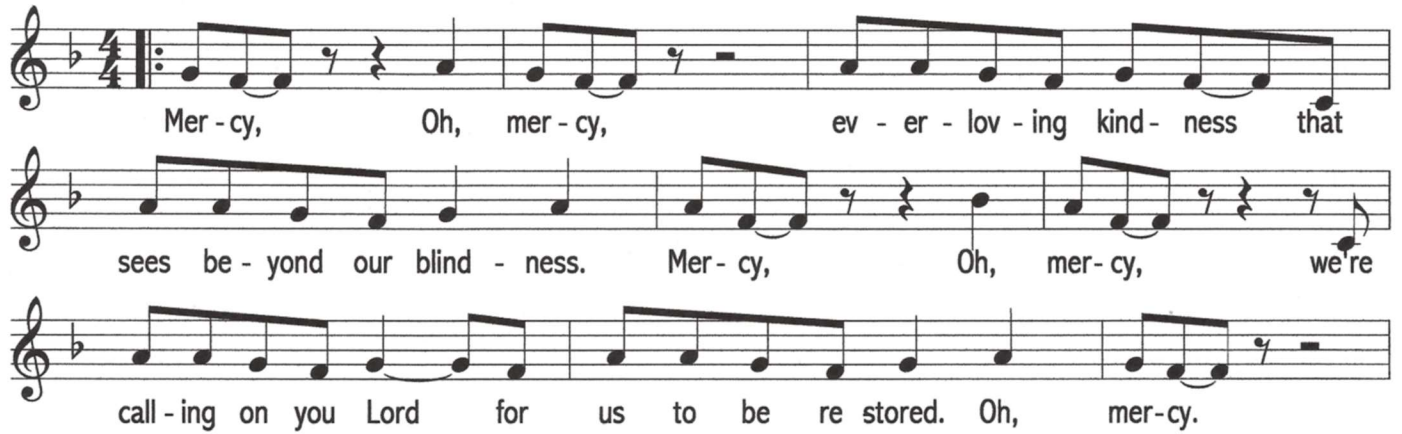
brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.

Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wake - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion

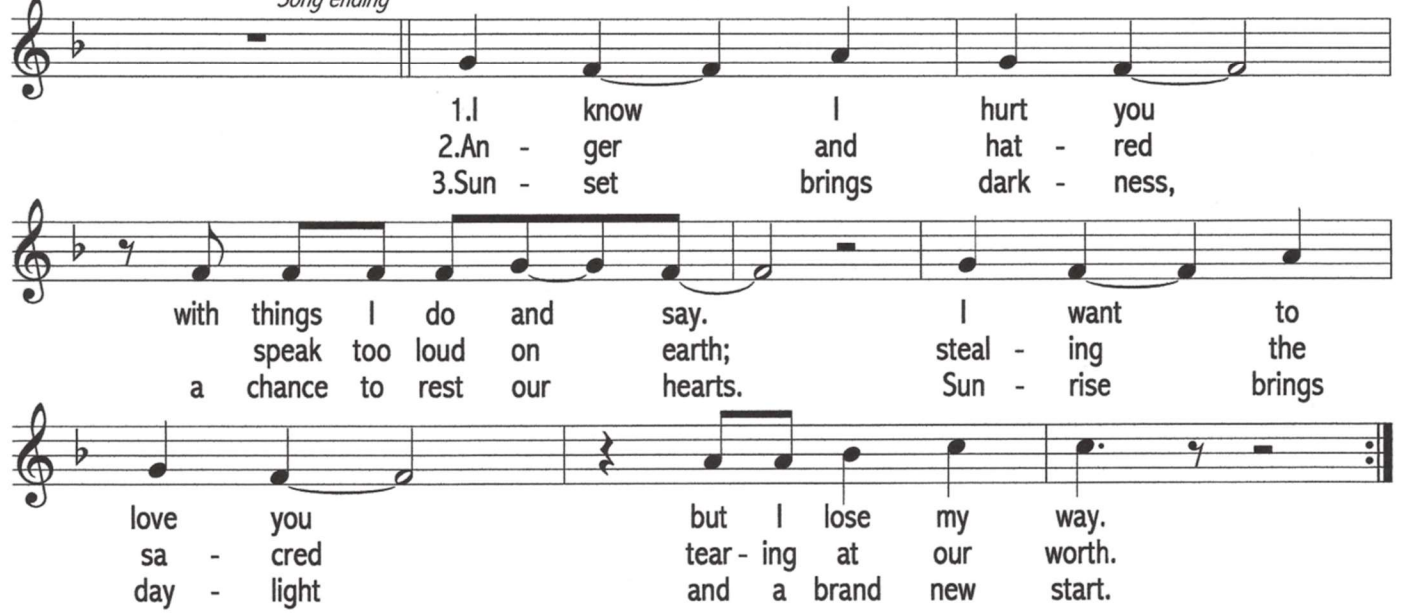
we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.

Mercy



Mer - cy, Oh, mer - cy, ev - er - lov - ing kind - ness that
sees be - yond our blind - ness. Mer - cy, Oh, mer - cy, we're
call - ing on you Lord for us to be re stored. Oh, mer - cy.

Song ending



1. I know I hurt you
2. An - ger and hat - red
3. Sun - set brings dark - ness,
with things I do and say. I want to
speak too loud on earth; steal - ing the
a chance to rest our hearts. Sun - rise brings
love you but I lose my way.
sa - cred tear - ing at our worth.
day - light and a brand new start.

Out in the Wilderness



1. Driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;
2. Tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness;
3. An - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness;
4. "You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.



driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness; when the
tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness; though you
an - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness; you are
"You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness. When you



Spir it says, "Go," you can't say, "No." You
try to be strong, it's been so long. He
far from home where wild things roam. There's
were bap - tized, you re - a - lized you'd

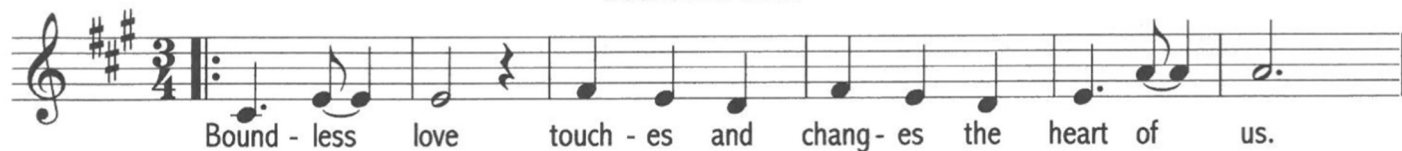


lis - ten for the voice when you're bend - ed low;
whis - pers in your ear and you know he's wrong;
dan - ger ev - 'ry - where but you're not a - lone;
heard the voice of God from the o - p'ning skies:



driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness.
tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness.
an - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness.
"You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.

Boundless Love



Bound - less love touch - es and chang - es the heart of us.



Bound - less love touch - es and chang - es the heart of



us. Oh Spir - it of Je - sus you
We stru - cture in - jus - tice that
Oh Spir - it of life come and



sit at our ta - ble and call us to a rad - i - cal
keeps some from eat - ing, you pre - pare us for a dif - fer - ent
move through the peo - ple con - front - ing the pow - ers of



meal _____ of bound - less love that climbs o - ver
feast _____ of bound - less love that climbs o - ver
death _____ 'cause bound - less love that climbs o - ver



bar - riers so noth - ing can keep us a - part.
bar - riers so noth - ing can keep us a - part.
bar - riers so noth - ing can keep us a - part.