



The Morning Worship
Sunday, March 29, 2020
The Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ *Jesus the Connector*

The Prelude

The Welcome

Pastor Lose

The Invocation

Pastor Hammersten

We gather as we live, supported by God's love, confident of God's grace, and emissaries of God's peace, for we are baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Confession and Absolution

Let us pray: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

St. John writes, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." And so we gather to confess our sin, not because we believe God thinks us unworthy or unlovable, but just the opposite: because, out of love, God has promised always to receive us in mercy and grace.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

The Prayers of the Day

Pastor Lose

The pastor will close each of the prayers with the words "In your mercy," and you are invited to respond, "Hear our prayer."

The Scripture ~ John 15:1-9

Pastor Hammersten

The Story of the Vine and the Branches

And Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. And as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; so abide in my love."

The Special Music *The Lord is My Light*

Frances Allitsen

Justin Staebell, baritone, and Richard Owen, piano

The Sermon ~ *Jesus the Connector*

Pastor Lose

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Hammersten

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 and ever. Amen.

The Benediction and Sending

Pastors

David J. Lose, Senior Pastor
Kurt P. Kalland, Monica M. Hammersten, William B. MacLean
Charlie R. Ruud, Mark J. Dixon, Rebecca C. Freeman

Director of Worship & Music, Beverly Claffin
Principal Organist, Richard Owen

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