

Sunday, March 6, 2022
Cultivating Spiritual Practices: Remember . . . to Move Forward

GOD GATHERS US FOR WORSHIP

Prelude
Welcome
Call to Worship

One: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore, he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. *All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness*, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees. (*Psalms 25:8-10*)

All: Come Holy Spirit and lead us. Lead us in the Way. The Way Christ walked.

One: May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; *but a new creation is everything!* (*Galatians 6:14*)

All: Come Holy Spirit and shape us anew. Lead us in the Way. The Way Christ walked.

One: In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as *God's own people, to the praise of his glory.* (*Ephesians 1:13*)

All: Come Holy Spirit and make us your own. Lead us in the Way. The Way Christ walked.

Songs:

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (LUYH 572)

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
My soul with comfort rich he fills, and every grief he gently stills:
to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made; in mercy he is keeping;
by morning glow or evening shade his eye is never sleeping.
And where he rules in kingly might, there all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!

We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Saviour saw our helplessness and came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord, who is by one and all adored:
to God all praise and glory!

Let all who name Christ's holy name give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story.
Cast every idol from its throne; the Lord is God, and he alone:
to God all praise and glory!

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (LUYH 521)

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount— I'm fixed upon it—mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by your help I've come;
and I hope, by your good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Prayer: The Apostle John wrote to people in 1 John 4:9 that “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.” Let’s trust in God’s love and mercy as we pray together now.

God of mercy, whose Son, Jesus Christ, longs to gather us in the wide embrace of his love, we confess that we have been wayward children. We have disobeyed your commands; our ears have been deaf to your call; our hearts have been cold to your love. In thought, in word, and in deed we have hurt others and dishonored your name. In your great mercy receive us yet again as your well-beloved children, not because we are worthy but for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us.

Music: Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, from my wickedness and cleanse me. Cleanse me from my sin. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin, cleanse me from my sin.

Lord, as we begin this journey through Lent, we remember that Israel's 40 years in the wilderness ended with the joy of entry into the promised land; that Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness ended in his victory over Satan's temptations; and so we know that these 40 days of Lent will end in the joy of celebrating your death for our sins and your resurrection to glory. We thank you that your forgiveness is not contingent on our confession but precedes it and makes it possible, for you have washed away our sin and created new hearts within us. Expand our hope and our anticipation of what you yet want to do in us and through us as we walk through the weeks of Lent. Amen.

Song:

I Waited Patiently for God (LUYH 670)

I waited patiently for God, for God to hear my prayer;
and God bent down to where I sank and listened to me there.

God raised me from a miry pit, from mud and sinking sand,
and set my feet upon a rock where I can firmly stand.
And on my lips a song was put, a new song to the Lord.
Many will marvel open-eyed and put their trust in God.

Great wonders you have done, O Lord, all purposed for our good.
Unable every one to name, I bow in gratitude.

GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

Scripture Reading: The Israelites, just like we just sang for ourselves, were asked to remember the great good God had done for them. Deuteronomy 7:17-19 records Moses saying to them: If you say to yourself, "These nations are more numerous than I; how can I dispossess them?" do not be afraid of them. Just remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs and wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm by which the Lord your God brought you out. The Lord your God will do the same to all the peoples of whom you are afraid."

Later, in Deuteronomy 32:7, Moses told the young people to, "Remember the days of old, consider the years long past; ask your father, and he will inform you; your elders, and they will tell you."

We are told to remember stories of God but we know as well that God also remembers us. David said in Psalm 136:23 "It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever." This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Scripture: Hebrews 10:32-11:2

Message: "Remember ... to move forward"

Song:

Blessed Assurance (LUYH 363)

Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Joyful confession: I am his own! Following Jesus, I'm never alone.
Born of his Spirit, I am restored, challenged to serve my Saviour and Lord.

Perfect submission: all is at rest, I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Saviour all the day long

GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE

Prayers of the People and Offering

Benediction

Benediction Song:

I Love to Tell the Story (LUYH 262)

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true. It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do
I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully
sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy
Word.
I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the
rest.
and when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have
loved so long.

Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.