

THE PEOPLE CALLED OF GOD
GATHER TO WORSHIP AT
BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Lent 3
March 7, 2010

* All who are able are invited to stand. Please stand to sing all hymns unless the leader says otherwise.

Congregational responses are printed in **bold type**.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

We Enter the Presence of God

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When our pockets are empty, God allows us to purchase what we need, charging it to grace's account.

People: **God thinks differently than we do.**

Leader: When our souls are parched, God hands us a glass of living water.

People: **God's ways are different from ours.**

Leader: When we grow weary of searching, God takes our hand and leads us home.

People: **God's love is different from ours.**

Leader: Let us worship our gracious God.

* HYMN No. 70 (verses 1 - 3) "God of the Sparrow"

* PRAYER

Leader: Gifted beyond measure, we grumble that we don't have enough. Seeking to get our own way, we do not see the ways God wants to forgive us and restore us to new life. In this season of reflection and repentance, let us turn to the One who waits for us with hope.

People: **We continue to be tempted, Faithful God. We are blessed with gifts to use for others, but we want to keep them for ourselves. We easily notice the mistakes of those around us, but do not want to look in the mirror at our lives. We turn our desires into idols, so we do not have to recognize how they can damage us. Forgive us, Steadfast God.**

Leader: Fill the poverty of our spirits with the richness of your grace; feed our selfish hunger with the bread of compassion for the world; pour the living waters of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into our hearts until they overflow with love.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: God is faithful. God's love is an eternal bargain which will not be broken, God's grace is the gift which will not be taken back.

People: **Such abundant mercy, such extravagant grace!
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(All are invited to greet each other with the ancient greeting, "The peace of Christ be with you,"... "And also with you.")

*THE GLORIA PATRI No. 35

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

FAREWELL TO CLAIRE GROSHANS (10:00)

ANTHEM (10:00) "John 3:16"

Stainer

Chancel Choir

We Hear of the Grace of God

HOLY SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 10 : 1 - 13

NT p. 172

* HYMN [see green insert] "What does the Lord require?"

HOLY SCRIPTURE Luke 13 : 1 - 9

NT p. 76

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "If it bears fruit in the future . . ."

Rev. Cook

We Respond to the Call of God

A TIME FOR PRAYER

Silent Prayer

Guided Prayer

SHARING PARISH LIFE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Call to Stewardship

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory "Come Sunday Morning"

Duke Ellington

* Doxology No. 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* HYMN No. 417 "We Place Upon Your Table, Lord"

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

[All are welcome to take Communion. The white cups contain wine. The red cups contain grape juice.]

INVITATION

Elder: As we journey through Lent, we need the strength of Christ to face our own demons and temptations. Christ invites us each one to come and feed on Him in our hearts by faith. All are welcome at this table.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord Most High.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

[The Prayer of Thanksgiving . . .]

Leader: And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation in this eternal hymn:

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[text]

Leader: We declare the mystery of faith:

MYSTERY OF FAITH

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

CONSECRATION

[text]

Leader: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy.

People: **Amen.**

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

* HYMN No. 70 (verses 4 - 6) "God of the Sparrow"

* COMMISSION

Leader: Go now; turn to the Lord, and let his thoughts fill your minds. Do not expend your resources on that which cannot satisfy, and do not become overly sure of yourselves, lest you fall into temptation. Instead seek the Lord while he may be found, and take the path to freedom that opens before you.

People: **We go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord.
Amen.**

* BENEDICTION

Leader: And may God's love be better to you even than life;
May Christ Jesus be to you a rock and a life-giving spring;
And may the Holy Spirit strengthen you and guide you in the ways of life.

People: **Amen.**

* RESPONSE No. 622 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"
(verse 1)

POSTLUDE

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