

HAINESVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ BEING THE CHURCH AT HOME
YouTube Worship Service ~ Sunday, March 14, 2021
Pastor Trent Zeitler

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Peggy Odegaard

By William Bradbury Arr. By Fred Keen

Call to Worship

Before we were born,
Before we took our first breath,
Before the week started,
Before the year started,
Before we said, “I love you,”
Before we said, “I’m sorry,”
Before we figured out who we really are,
Before we figured out who we want to be,
Before it all—
God loved us.
Unconditionally and freely,
Fully and honestly—
God loved us.
Again and again, this is where our story begins.
Let us worship God!

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people, ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which God loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved. With Christ ⁶God raised us up and enthroned us in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus ⁷so that in the ages to come might be shown the immeasurable riches of God's grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not you own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Gospel: John 3:14-21

¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son-of-Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God loved the world in this way, that God gave the Son, the only begotten one, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

- 1 What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
- 2 When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
- 3 To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

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Prayers of God's People

On this fourth Sunday in Lent, let us pray to our loving God for all the needs of the world, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "your mercy endures forever."

O God, preserve your church through good times and bad. Lift up and encourage congregational leaders, equip and empower your people for service, and renew communities of faith as they continue make preparations to safely gather once again. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Bless the ELCA and our ecumenical partners as we walk alongside one another in love, reflecting the light of Christ into the world.

O God our Redeemer, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

Continue your creation of this good earth. Nourish seas and rivers, and give water to thirsty lands. Nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures. Bless the fields being prepared for the growing season and the farmers who till the soil.

O God our Creator, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

You so love the world and you hold it closely in the palm of your hand. In Brazil and wherever COVID-19 rages, send healing. In Myanmar and wherever tyranny rules, restore human rights. In Nigeria and wherever there is domestic terrorism, send concord. In Ethiopia and wherever there is bloodshed, bring peace. In Yemen and wherever people starve, give food and water. In the United States and wherever there is discrimination, inspire all residents to honor one another and to strive for justice. Bless the work of those who care for victims of violence, and grant legislators wisdom in decision-making.

O God our Protector, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

Grant rest and welcome to migrants. Bring run-aways to places of safety. Protect all who are incarcerated. Provide caring families to children who seek adoption. Give a decent life to all who live on our streets.

O God our Homeland, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

As you saved your people of old from snakebite, so now deliver all who suffer from disaster, hunger, disease, and despair, and those we name here before you. . .

Kyle (Adlon), **Rusty** (Allen), **Lindsay** (A), **Trudy** (Berkhahn), **Nancy** (Bontempo), **Shirley** (Brandt), **John** (Breider), **Karen & Del** (Brewer), **Dennis** (Buckingham), **Eugene** (Clark), **Danielle** (Davis), **Mike** (Grainger), **Ruth** (Grainger), **Cindy & Terry** (Kinney), **Ellie** (Krull), **Judy** (Larson), **Natalie** (Markham), **Francine** (Meyer), **Ken** (Overland), **Jodi** (P), **Elaine** (Roalkvan), **Matthew** (Roque), **Alice** (Roque-Angermeier), **Troy**, **Deanna**, **Lexi, & Laci** (Schiesser), **Eric** (Thorson), **Dorothy** (Twiton), **Kari** (Uetz), **Aubrey** (W), **Mike** (Zolnosky), and **Jeanine**.

O God our Savior, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

Shine light into our darkness, make night into a blessing, and in mercy hear the prayers of our hearts:

O God our Friend, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

We praise you for all the saints who have lived and died in Christ, and we remember before you all who have died from COVID-19. At the end, bring us with them into life in your presence.

O God our Comforter, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

To you, O God, our only God, we entrust all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our loving Lord.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

Blessing and Sending

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm—
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, ± the Beloved, and Love itself,
Amen.

Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.

Thanks be to God....and we will !!!

Hymn ELW 324 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
 tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
 All the light of sacred story
 gathers round its head sublime.**
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
 hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
 never shall the cross forsake me;
 lo, it glows with peace and joy.**
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
 light and love upon my way,
 from the cross the radiance streaming
 adds more luster to the day.**
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
 by the cross are sanctified;
 peace is there that knows no measure,
 joys that through all time abide.**