Inviting people into God's larger story

as we follow Christ together

March 17, 2024 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

Prelude – "Little Prelude and Fugue in D Minor" – J.S. Bach

Ringing of the Bell

Song – "Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak"

Call to Worship

Friends, why are you here?

We are seeking God with our hearts, minds and spirits.

You're in the right place! This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Let us worship God!

Song – "Lord, When I Came Into This Life" Lord, when I came into this life you called me by my name; today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim.

Within the circle of the faith, as member of your cast, I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past.

In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt, let your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.

So help me in my unbelief and let my life be true: feet firmly planted on the earth, my sights set high on you.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher." Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, "How many times should we forgive?"—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility we pray.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Song – "I Will Follow"
Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay
Where you move, I'll move, I will follow.

All your ways are good, all your ways are sure; I will trust in you alone. Higher than my sight, high above my life; I will trust in you alone.

Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay; when you move, I'll move. I will follow you. Whom you love, I'll love; how you serve, I'll serve; if this life I lose I will follow you

Light into the world, light into my life, I will live for you alone. You're the one I seek, knowing I will find all I need in you alone.

Passing of the Peace

11:00 Faith Sharing with Children

News of Our Church

11:00 Song - "Speak, O Lord"

Scripture Reading – Matthew 18:15-22

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." ²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy seven times.

Sermon – "Wandering Heart – Teach Me"

Call for Offering – Text "WHPCGIFT" to 73256

Song - "My Story"

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Song – "Give Thanks, O Christian People"
Give thanks, O Christian people, for leaders of our years
who live to share with others our joy when Christ appears,
to teach the ones who seek light, to guide the faltering feet,
to lead the followers forward our living Lord to meet.

Give thanks, O Christian people, for all who love the Lord, who live each day believing in God's eternal Word: to share Christ's love in living, to witness with each deed, to use the talents given to plant the gospel seed.

Give thanks, O Christian people, for life in fellowship with all who trust our Savior their serving to equip: to ease another's burdens, to cope in joy and stress, to magnify God's message and Christ's great love confess.

Benediction

Postlude

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