

CELEBRATING THE SABBATH  
Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021 at 10 o'clock



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*Most Christians are thermometers that record or register the temperature of majority opinion, not thermostats that transform and regulate the temperature of society.*

--The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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PRELUDE

*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

Fred B. Binckes

SHARING OUR WELCOME VIRTUALLY

WE COME TO WORSHIP

*As we enter into worship, I invite you to share in this litany taken from a prayer written by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, MI. In this pandemic winter the world is upside down, but as we enter into a time of worship online, we seek to reorient our hearts and minds on things that matter.*

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

God's Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.

**We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction  
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.**

**Nothing we do is complete,**

**which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.**

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

**We plant the seeds that one day will grow.**

**We water seeds already planted,**

**knowing that they hold future promise.**

**We lay foundations that will need further development.**

**We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.**

We cannot do everything,

and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something,

and to do it very well.

**It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.  
We may never see the future results,  
but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.  
We are workers, not master builders;  
we are prophets of a future that is not our own. Amen**

- Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, drafted for a homily by Cardinal John Dearden, Nov. 1979, adapted

HYMN #24

*The God of Abraham Praise*

[Click here to see hymn](#)

Join as you are able!

**The God of Abraham praise. All praised be the Name,  
who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same;  
the one eternal God, ere all that now appears,  
the First, the Last, beyond all thought through timeless years!**

**God has eternal life implanted in the soul.  
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.  
Praise to the living God! All praised be the Name,  
who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same!**

OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you;  
have mercy on us and forgive us.  
Help us when we hesitate,  
and strengthen us when we are weak.  
Breathe your Spirit afresh into our hearts and minds—our lives—  
so that we have the courage to follow Jesus wherever he takes us.  
Amen.**

A MOMENT FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Lauren Dube

SELECTION

*The Lord's Prayer*  
Charles Goodwin, Cornet

Albert Malotte

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Romans 4:18-25](#)

Elizabeth Oman-Wilfrid

SERMON

*Reckoning on a Promise*

Erica Avena

A TIME OF 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.**

RESPONDING WITH OUR GIFTS

Offertory

*What Wondrous Love Is This*  
Charles Goodwin, Cornet

arr. John Carter

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Or Give by Text: Text *GIVE* to (860) 222-7870. Click [here](#) to watch a demo video.

Doxology, Words: Hymnal, No. 47; Tune: Hymnal, No. 46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

HYMN #66

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*  
Join as you are able!

[Click here to see hymn](#)

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Tune*

Christopher Tambling