



Burlington

Baptist Church

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Lent III

Sunday, March 3, 2024

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Welcome to Burlington Baptist Church today!

* You are invited to stand.

WE APPROACH GOD

Loving God, your commitment to us is clear:

we see it in the ministry of Jesus;

we see it in his crucifixion.

Our commitment to you, however, is often mixed:

what do we want for ourselves;

what shall we give to you?

Will we serve you with unmeasured love,

or will we give you a part, and keep a part?

Help us in this time of Lent to walk with Jesus on his Calvary journey

so that our commitment becomes clear, and our love complete.

Amen.

Prelude:

“To a Wild Rose”

Cameron

(Edward MacDowell)

Welcome and Announcements

Dave

Prayer and Preparation

WE PRAISE GOD

Lenten Admonition

Introit

“To the Desert Follow Me” (Sarah Hart)

*REFRAIN: To the desert follow me,
for I am God, who is your hope.
To the desert follow me.*

- 1. I will embrace your every wound,
for I am balm to heal your pain.
You shall not weep forever more;
I have remembered you, my children.*

*REFRAIN: To the desert follow me,
for I am God, who is your hope.
To the desert follow me.*

2. *My goodness flows out of my heart
over the ones I came to save.
I will cleanse you of your sin,
replace your guilt with my compassion.*

*REFRAIN: To the desert follow me,
for I am God, who is your hope.
To the desert follow me.*

Invitation to Worship

* Hymn of Praise “How Great Thou Art” 625 - GG

1. *O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:*

*REFRAIN: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

2. *When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: [REFRAIN]*

4. *When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!” [REFRAIN]*

* Prayer of Confession and Approach

Grant us your grace, O God, and set us free.
When we hear and obey the voice of the world
rather than turning to you for guidance,
grant us your grace, O God, and set us free. (over)

When we judge others without wanting to look at ourselves,
grant us your grace, O God, and set us free.

When we fail to love your people
out of anger, prejudice, or fear,
grant us your grace, O God, and set us free,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.

WE GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD

Responsive Reading Psalm 19 - a paraphrase by James Taylor

LEADER: *The heavens declare the glory of God,
the earth shows forth God's handiwork.*

PEOPLE: **The whole world is God's textbook.
From the edges of the atmosphere
to the core of the planet,
the wonders of the earth
expand our understanding.**

LEADER: Rocks have no words, nor do cells have syllables,
yet their message can be read anywhere.

PEOPLE: **Even the fiery stars, racing through space,
yield their secrets to those whose minds are open
to the mysteries of God's universe.**

LEADER: An underlying harmony, a delicate equilibrium
built on the value of every thing, binds together
past, present, and future.

PEOPLE: **Nothing stands alone.
Life dies and becomes new life.
Spirit and flesh are one.**

LEADER: My life is inextricably linked to yours,
and our common survival is tied
to the trees and the insects.

PEOPLE: This is the beginning of wisdom.
It is better than wealth,
more valuable than possessions.
Awareness of it will change you forever.

LEADER: But we are too often deaf; we close our ears
to the voices of the winds and waves,
to the insights of the rocks and the plants.

ALL: Creator God,
keep us from thinking we know it all.
Human minds cannot encompass eternity.
Keep us always open to wonder,
to beauty, to mystery, and to you,
O Greatest of Mysteries. Amen.

Sunday Morning Friends

Prayers of the People of God

* Hymn of Preparation “Jesus Christ is Waiting”
[Words by John Bell, Tune @ #247]

1. *Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.*
2. *Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.*
3. *Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
Curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have compassion too.
Let my care be active, healing just like you.*
4. *Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.*

*Listen, Lord Jesus, we should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard let us dance with you.*

5. *Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.*

GOD SPEAKS TO US

The Scriptures

Anne

Hebrew Lesson: Exodus 20: 1 - 17

Gospel Lesson: John 2: 13 - 22

Sermon: *"Compassion, Not Purity"*

A Gift of Song

"Were You There?"
(African American Spiritual)

The BBC Singers

Celebration of Communion

GOD SENDS US FORTH

* Hymn of Response "Loaves Were Broken" 498 - GG

- 1. Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of Life from heaven, was their food forever more.
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*
- 2. Loaves were broken, words were spoken
in a quiet room one night.
In the bread and wine you gave them,
Christ, you came as Light, from Light.
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

3. *Loaves are broken, words are spoken as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages: "I am with you; do not fear!"
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

4. *By the loaves you break and give us,
send us in your name to share
Bread for which the millions hunger,
words that tell your love and care.
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

* Benediction

Postlude

“Consolation”
(Felix Mendelssohn)

Cameron