

Morning Worship ~ March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent

As you enter the Zoom meeting, you're invited to enjoy the music playing in the background.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK AND WEEKLY ZOOM GATHERING OPPORTUNITIES ARE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE AND WILL ALSO BE EMAILED OUT ON MONDAY.

God Gathers the Church

GATHERING MUSIC: *The prelude is dedicated to Martha Hoffmann.*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

All you who pass this way

look and see the shadow of sin.

All you who pass this way

look and see the weight of the world.

All you who pass this way

look and see the suffering of our Savior.

All you who pass this way

look and see the sorrow of Jesus Christ.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, You have come into the world to condemn us not yet we have forsaken your love, refused your abundance, and chosen to see your grace less clearly. We are sorry for keeping what you desire us to share, and discarding what you desire us to use well. Change our hearts, God, that we might work diligently in the world you have given us, seek healing for those who are hurting, and care for all without discrimination. Above all, grow us as disciples of Jesus Christ and witnesses of the Holy Spirit; raise us up that we might become beacons of your love.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GUIDE FOR GRATEFUL LIVING

(John 13:34)

Hear the teaching of Christ: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another just as I have loved you."

***GLORIA PATRI:** 734 *"Glory Be to the Father"*

God's Word Is Proclaimed

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

SCRIPTURES FOR TODAY:

Cheryl Williams

John 19:28-29 (New Testament, p. 114)

*This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

SERMON: *"Thirsty"*

Rev. Kendra VanHouten

The Church Responds to God

THE SHARING OF THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING: While the social distancing makes it a challenge to worship in person, and serve alongside one another, ministry is still happening. We ask that you consider either mailing in your offering contribution or setting it on online on our secure website www.fairstreetreformedchurch.org and click on the support us page. Your offering supports the work and ministry of the church as we continue to seek for ways in which we can love our neighbor, with no exceptions, even from a distance.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

HYMN REFLECTION

BENEDICTION

SENDING MUSIC:

I Thirst

TAKE THIS CUP

The bright flash of red he poured in their cups, squeezed
from flesh of bursting grapes in proud Judean vineyards,
was wine passed among them for centuries
in joyful celebrations, with dancing and music—
and he called it “my blood.”
And he said, “Remember me.”

Remember me, he surely meant, always,
but also a few hours from then, when they,
humanly drowsy and falling asleep in nature’s night,
cannot help him pray his way free
from the thought of a more terrible cup,
a cup thick and bitter enough to gag on.

Right now, as he hangs by his wounds from a Roman cross,
that’s a cup he might settle for, a cup of anything,
a thimble, a stick to suck. Struggling to cry out
from a swollen throat scorched by God’s anger—
anger not with him who hangs there but with us—
he rasps only two cleave-tongued words: I thirst.

Two words from Immanuel, from “God-with-us,” two words
that are shaped by human flesh. The redemption is heavy—
it comes not by our heavenward flights but by his having
come down. Not the spirituality of humans but the humanity of God.

Well, it’s Friday. Two more days and we can choose
to shout and raise our cups, click our glasses
brimming with full-bodied earthy wines that smack of soul—
miracle wines that sing and make us sing.
—*Rod Jellema, © 2010. Used by permission.*