

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: *Invocabit**A Cappella Sunday*

THE LORD'S DAY, 21 February, Anno Domini 2021 Eleven o'clock in the morning | The Sanctuary

✠ denotes the People stand, in body or in spirit, as able.

The People's responses are printed in bold.

SILENT PRAYER of PREPARATION for WORSHIP

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations, and, as You know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find You mighty to save. For You bid Your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by Your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto Him who died for us and rose again; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

–Book of Common Prayer

GREETING

The Rev^d Dr. Mark Conforti, Senior PastorPlease see our [website](#) or [newsletter](#) for more information about upcoming ministry opportunities.

INTROIT

Ms. Halle Dunn and Mr. Joshua Starnes

This modern hymn will be serving as our "Lenten anthem" and will be used every service during Lent. This hymn takes us through the gospel story and reminds us over and over again of the grace of God. God's mercy was reflected in the cross of Calvary when He sent His only Son to die for us so that we may live a victorious and abundant life. We are reminded of the mercy Jesus showed us, and the heavy price He paid on the cross, for all of us to be saved from the punishment of our sins. The hymn writers found their lyrical inspiration from a [letter](#) penned by John Newton, writer of the beloved hymn, "Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound." In a letter dated March 18, 1767, Newton wrote: "Our sins are many, but His mercies are more: our sins are great, but His righteousness is greater: we are weak, but He is power!"

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins, they are many;
His mercy is more!

What love could remember
no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all-knowing,
He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
our sins, they are many; His mercy is more!

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?
He welcome the weakest, the vilest, the poor.
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more!

What riches of kindness He lavished on us.
His blood was the payment; His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more!

✦ CALL to WORSHIP (*responsively*)

from Psalm 139.23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
try me and know my thoughts!
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

✦ GATHERING HYMN (*in unison*)

WOODWORTH

In 1828, at the age of 32, Charlotte Elliott suffered a serious illness that left her a semi-invalid. This caused depression, and within the year she experienced a severe spiritual crisis. Swiss evangelist Henry A. Cesar Malan was visiting her family, and she confessed to him that she didn't know how to come to Christ. His famous response was, "Come to him just as you are." Her depression continued, however. One night, twelve years later, she lay awake, distressed by her uselessness as an invalid, and by doubts of her spiritual life. The next day, as she reflected on the previous night, she decided she needed to meet her spiritual troubles head on and conquer them by the grace of God. So she "gathered up in her soul the grand certainties, not of her emotions, but of her salvation: her Lord, His power, His promise" (Lutheran Hymnal Handbook). She took up pen and paper, and wrote down her own "formulae of faith," remembering those words of the visiting evangelist. In the end she had the text "Just as I am, without one plea." Her rule of faith has since become a comfort to millions, and we join with all Christians who experience doubt and uncertainty in their faith when we declare that Christ invites us to come to Him, just as we are. For more information about this hymn and its history, please visit: [Discipleship Ministries | History of Hymns: "Just as I Am" comes from... \(umcdiscipleship.org\)](http://umcdiscipleship.org).



1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy
2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my
3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with many a
4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me, and that thou bidst me come to
soul of one dark blot, to thee whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, many a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to



thee,
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out,
find,

5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
Refrain

6. Just as I am, thy love unknown
hath broken every barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea, thine alone,
Refrain

✦ CALL to LAMENT and REPENTANCE

The Rev^d Stacey Lundy, Associate Pastor

Brothers and sisters, with hope in the mercies of God, let us confess our sin, saying,
“Create in us a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within us.”

✦ CORPORATE PRAYER of CONFESSION (*responsively*)

O Lord, forgive Your foolish people.

We are skilled in doing evil, but we do not know how to do good.

**Create in us a clean heart, O God;
put a new and right spirit within us.**

In the folly of our hearts
we live as though there is no God.

**Create in us a clean heart, O God;
put a new and right spirit within us.**

We forget all You have done for us,
and make false idols to be our gods.

**Create in us a clean heart, O God;
put a new and right spirit within us.**

We act faithlessly, violently, and scorn Your Name.

**Create in us a clean heart, O God;
put a new and right spirit within us.**

(A brief moment of silence follows for private confession.)

✦ ASSURANCE of GOD’S PARDON (*responsively*)

The saying is sure and full of worthy acceptance:
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Hear the Good News!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

✦ DOXOLOGY (*in unison*)

HAMBURG

Praise God, from whom all__ ble - ssings flow;

Praise God, all crea - tures__ here be - low;

Praise God a - bove, ye__ hea - ven - ly host;

Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly__ Ghost!

BY Your Word and Holy Spirit:
Shine into our hearts so that we might cast aside all idolatry
and worship You in spirit and in truth.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

[Exodus 32.1-8](#)

GOSPEL LESSON

[Matthew 16.13-23](#)

SERMON

SONG of RESPONSE (in unison)

PASSION CHORALE



1. Cast down, O God, the i - dols that hold us in_ their power,
2. In vain we search for mea - ning where tran - sient joys a - bound,
3. O God, we have our be - ing in You and You a - lone.



the emp - ty gods we wor - ship when dark - ness has its hour.
and seek the soul's con - tent - ment where peace can - not be found.
Re - call us from our wan - d'rings; re - claim us as_ Your own.



We bow to o - ther mas - ters and by their pro - mise live.
We wan - der, lost and home - less, in end - less, aim - less quest,
Re - store in us the Im - age re - vealed in Christ, Your Word,



Re - deem our way - ward pas - sions; our re - bel wills for - give.
our hearts for - e - ver rest - less, un - til in You they rest.
till heart and will pay ho - mage to Him, our God and Lord.

VISIO DIVINA



A palm frond set inside a stylized flame symbolizes the ashes, made from the burnt remains of last Palm Sunday's splendor, which will mark the sign of the cross on our bodies. The image is encompassed by the Latin phrase, "Remember man, you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words and symbols invite us to engage with our own mortality and sorrow over sin as we continue our Lenten journey.

—Sacred Ordinary Days

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and buried.

On the third day He rose from the dead;

He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick* and the dead.

[*living]

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic** Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

[**universal]

RECEPTION of GOD'S TITHES and OUR OFFERINGS

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PRAYERS of INTERCESSION and THANKSGIVING (responsively)

Following each petition:

...Lord, in Your mercy:

Hear our prayer...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

from Matthew 6.9-13

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. *Amen.*

♣ SENDING HYMN (in unison or harmony, as able)

THE SOLID ROCK

As Edward Mote was walking to work one day in 1834, the thought popped into his head to write a hymn on the "Gracious Experience of a Christian." As he walked up the road, he had the chorus, "On Christ, the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand." By the end of the day, he had the first four stanzas written out and safely tucked away in his pocket. Later that week, he visited his friend whose wife was very ill, and as they couldn't find a hymnal to sing from, he dug up his newly written verses and sang those with the couple. The wife enjoyed them so much she asked for a copy, and Mote went home to finish the last two stanzas and sent it off to a publisher, saying, "As these verses so met the dying woman's case, my attention to them was the more arrested, and I had a thousand printed for distribution." Almost two centuries later, we continue to sing these words of hope and assurance, our declaration that in the midst of all trials and storms, we will cling to the Rock that is Christ our Savior.

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

righ - teous - ness. I dare not trust the sweet - est frame,
 chang - ing grace. In ev - ery high and storm - y gale,
 whelm - ing flood. When all a - round my soul gives way,
 him be found! Dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone,

Refrain

but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 my an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ the sol - id rock I stand,
 he then is all my hope and stay.
 fault - less to stand be - fore the throne!

all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

✦ BENEDICTION and COMMISSION
...Thanks be to God! *Amen.*

✦ DEPARTURE into THE MISSION FIELD

PRAISE the Lord, *His mercy is more!*
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more!



Our Lenten banner depicts the cross of Christ in white. It stands out against the darkness of purple, ash gray, and other somber colors, representing pain, suffering, mourning, and penance. The two black crosses of the thieves crucified with Christ are in the background. In contrast, the lighter colors around the cross of Christ represent hope that comes from the blood of Christ, shed for our redemption and the forgiveness of sin. The black sand and burlap runner in the chancel remind us of the biblical illustration of wearing sackcloth and the use of ashes as a sign of mourning and penitence, and they call us to remember our own human mortality. The reeds remind us of Jesus' fasting and temptation by Satan in the desert for 40 days and nights, while also foreshadowing Christ's Passion.

A special "thank you" to all those serving in worship today, including:

Master Austin Massaquoi, Acolyte; Ms. Jen Fogt, Video Producer; and The Reverend Stacey Lundy, Video Editor.



Week of February 21-27

8	EXODUS 31 PSALM 49 MATTHEW 13	EXODUS 32-33 MATTHEW 14	PSALM 86 EXODUS 34-35 MATTHEW 15	EXODUS 36-37 MATTHEW 16-17	EXODUS 38-39 PSALM 131 MATTHEW 18
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