

Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

Welcome

Prelude ***Three Psalm-Prelude*** Op. 32, No.2 Herbert Howells
But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace. Psalm 37:11 (NIV)

Threshold Moment

♪Vessels, holy and whole Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul Healer, come.♪

Centering and Calming Divine Breath of God, You gifted us with amazing minds, capable of so many things. You gave us the ability to think and feel, imbuing us with discernment of thought and emotion. Like our physical bodies, sometimes this aspect of our selves is plagued these days as we struggle through disappointment, despair and disillusion. We are even afraid of what others might think if they knew we were having difficulties managing and moving forward. Too often, we shame ourselves and others, labeling and belittling others, but also turning disgust and shame upon ourselves. No one is immune from troubles of the mind at some point. We tend to elevate others, like the wealthy and powerful, or like our politicians, into saviors, even though they are every bit as broken as we are. We misuse Your name often. We have trouble speaking to You in prayer at night. We are so busy, we do not notice how even creation witnesses to Your goodness and grace. So many are suffering now, God, weary and distraught, grieving and at the end of their rope. We cannot fathom the proportions of loss, and so we look away, sometimes even from the need in our own community.

Forgive us, God of Hope. Help us to let go of what we value most, so we may open our emptiness, our hearts, our lives to the healing and loving presence of Jesus Christ, our true Savior. In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

♪Vessels, holy and whole Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul Healer, come.♪

Assurance

The peace of Christ is with you.
And also with you.

*Hymn #57 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (Stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Offertory

Kid's Place

Music *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* arr. Mark C. Jones

Scripture Exodus 20: 1-17

*Hymn #451 *Be Thou My Vision* (All 3)

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| Message | Rend Your Hearts: <i>All These Words</i> | Pastor Greg Cox |
| * Hymn #108 | <i>God Hath Spoken by the Prophets</i> (All 3) | |
| * Postlude | <i>Thy Mercies, Lord, Shall Be My Song</i> | W.T. Best |

This Morning's Music: Today, and next Sunday features music from the first of two sets of ***Three Psalm-Preludes*** by Herbert Howells (1892-1983). These pieces are inspired by, and are musical interpretations of passages from the book of Psalms. Howells, an English composer, studied at the Royal College of Music in London, where he would then be a teacher of composition for more than 40 years. Much of his choral compositions form the canon of English Choir and Cathedral Choir repertoire. His choral Service settings were often named for the buildings in which they would be sung. Herbert Howells was a master of color within the sound of his music. His rich harmonic language could be considered "English-jazz" and is deeply emotional whether dynamically very hushed or declamatory. The typical form of these pieces (and much twentieth-century English Romantic organ literature) is from soft, to quite full, then fading away at the end.