

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

APRIL 3, 2022

GATHERING SONG *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

UMH #368

**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain:

**On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)**

**His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. (Refrain)**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! (Refrain)**

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: When the Lord restored our fortunes, we were like those who dream.

P: Then our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues were loosed with shouts of joy.

L: Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

P: The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad.

L: Restore our fortunes, O God, like ancient, flowing streams.

P: Let those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

OPENING HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory*

UMH #577

**God of grace and God of glory, on the people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story, bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
For the living of these days.**

**Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
Serving thee whom we adore.**

OPENING PRAYER (spoken in unison)

Walk with us, Spirit of Christ, on this Lenten journey. Show us what to bring with us and what to leave behind. Give us the courage to leave the past behind, that we may see the new things that lie ahead. Then, let us pick up our very best gifts in order to bring them to others in Your name, that our lives may be complete, and our hearts made whole. In the Spirit and joy of Christ, our friend, we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (spoken in unison)

God of grace, you call us into Your glorious future. When we dwell on the past, you tell us to remember no longer the things of old. When we fail to notice the poor among us, you call us to give freely of what we have. When we are reluctant to share our gifts and talents, you give us Your own life so that we many live. Free us, Holy Spirit, from self-absorption and from fear. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: As God's children, forgiven and free, we are blessed to give our best gifts in God's name.

P: Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken in unison)

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

OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus, says the LORD, WHO makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

L: The Word of the Lord. P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“A New Way”

Rev. Richard Baker

HYMN *Deck Thyself, My Soul with Gladness*

UMH #613

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor; there with joy thy praises render

**Unto Christ, whose grace unbounded hath this wondrous banquet founded.
High o'er all the heavens he reigneth, yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.**

**Sun, who all my life dost brighten; Light, who dost my soul enlighten;
Joy, the best that any knoweth; Fount, whence all my being floweth;
At thy feet I cry, my Maker, let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven, for our good, thy glory, given.**

**Jesus, bread of life, I pray thee, let me gladly here obey thee;
Never to my hurt invited, be thy love with love requited.
From this banquet let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;
Through the gifts thou here dost give me, as thy guest in heaven receive me.**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is right and good...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

P: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

L: ...All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever

P: Amen.

(at this time, we invite you to partake of the elements: the bread and the grapes, as a sign of God's love for you)

HYMN *Standing on the Promises*

UMH #374

**Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.**

Refrain:

**Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)**

**Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,**

**Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)**

**Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)**

BENEDICTION

L: God is always at work in our lives, transforming us from glory to ever-increasing glory. God is at work, doing a new thing in all of us.

P: Amen.

SENDING SONG *On Eagle's Wings*

UMH #143

**And God will raise you up on eagles' wings Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun And hold you in the palm of God's hand**