

Calvary United Methodist Church

Sunday, February 28, 2021; 10:15 am

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Dee Freeman

Call To Worship

Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent towards the One who calls us each by a new name.

Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us, pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.

Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us, whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.¹

Invocation of the Spirit

First Testament Lesson

Psalm 22:23-31

“You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.” (NRSV)

Declaration of Praises

Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Prayer Time

¹ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/rend-your-hearts-claiming-the-promise/second-sunday-in-lent-year-b-lectionary-planning-notes/second-sunday-in-lent-year-b-liturgical-resources>

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Lenten Reading

Leader: We lay before the cross today the nails with which we pierced the hands and feet of God's Son. Nails are usually used for construction. We used these nails, however, for destruction. They forever symbolize our attempt to destroy God's true temple.

People: Lord Jesus, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for our violent rejection of Your truth. Help us say "No" to destroying one another. Help us say "Yes" to the cross.

Leader: The nail-scars on Christ's hands and feet remind us of a Suffering Servant who brought redemption through His obedience unto death, even death on a cross. He let us fasten Him to a cross, that we might never be separated from His love.

People: Lord Jesus, have mercy upon us. We cannot grasp Your love that suffers for us. We often fail to love like that; we turn from the suffering of others. Help us say "No" to our self-centered nature. Help us say "Yes" to the cross.

Leader: With nails we implemented our condemnation of Our Lord. They remind us of our bent to condemnation, our frequent inability to forgive ourselves and to extend forgiveness to others.

People: Lord Jesus, you have had mercy on us! There is now no condemnation, for You, our God, are for us. We cannot lose Your love. Help us say "No" to our condemnation of others. Help us say "Yes" to the cross.

Leader: Let us pray together...

All: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Give us Your grace in our self-centeredness. Help us take up our cross and spend ourselves on a life that cannot be taken away. We thank You that nothing can separate us from Your love. Transform us by that love, we pray. Amen.²

Scripture Lesson

1 Samuel 7:7-14

"When the Philistine rulers heard that Israel had gathered at Mizpah, they mobilized their army and advanced. The Israelites were badly frightened when they learned that the Philistines were approaching. "Don't stop pleading with the Lord our God to save us from the Philistines!" they begged Samuel. So Samuel took a young lamb and offered it to the Lord as a whole burnt

² <http://www.cnvoice.org/lentiturgyYearB.html>

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offering. He pleaded with the Lord to help Israel, and the Lord answered him. Just as Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines arrived to attack Israel. But the Lord spoke with a mighty voice of thunder from heaven that day, and the Philistines were thrown into such confusion that the Israelites defeated them. The men of Israel chased them from Mizpah to a place below Beth-car, slaughtering them all along the way. Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means "the stone of help"), for he said, "Up to this point the Lord has helped us!" So the Philistines were subdued and didn't invade Israel again for some time. And throughout Samuel's lifetime, the Lord's powerful hand was raised against the Philistines. The Israelite villages near Ekron and Gath that the Philistines had captured were restored to Israel, along with the rest of the territory that the Philistines had taken. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites in those days." (NLT)

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Williams

Shalom To You: The End of Hostility

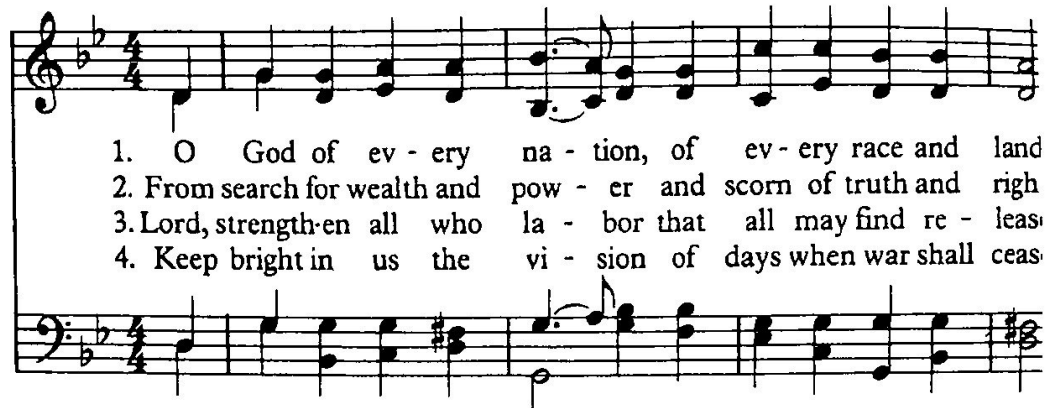
Closing Hymn

O God of Every Nation

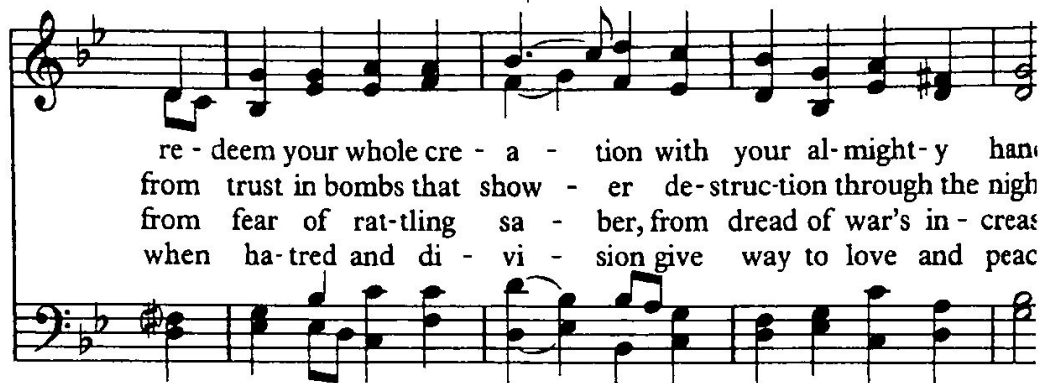
Benediction

Postlude

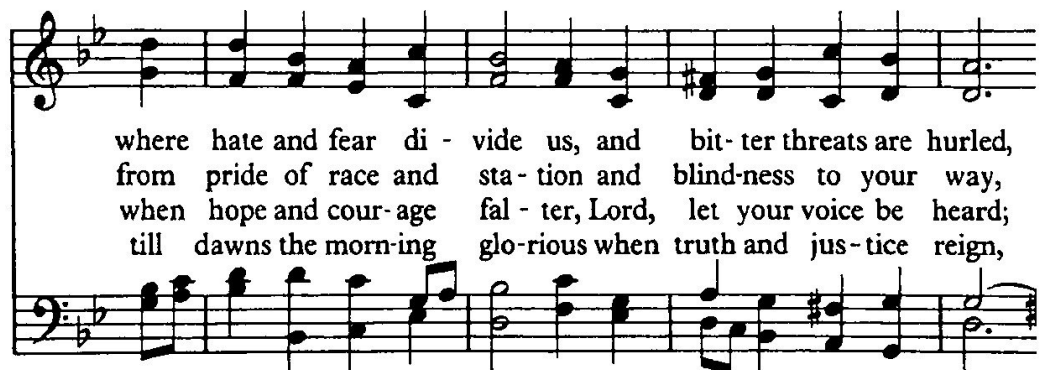
Dee Freeman



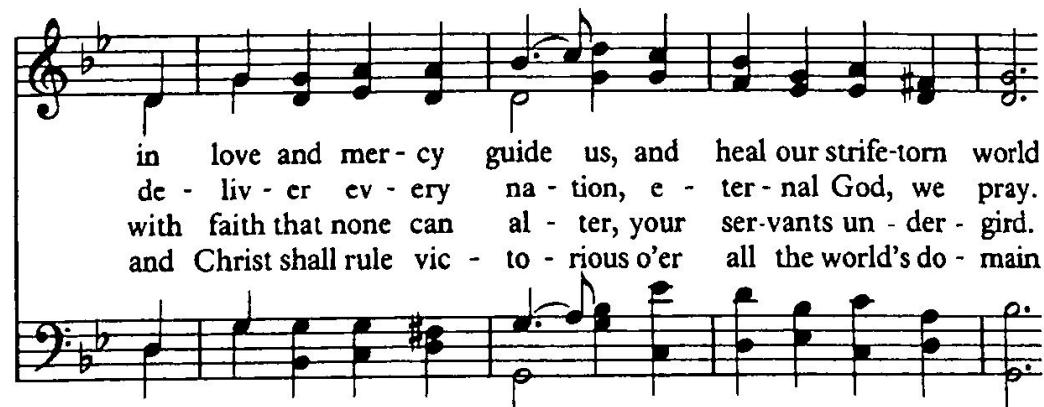
1. O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land
 2. From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right
 3. Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4. Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease



re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace



where hate and fear di - vide us, and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign,



in love and mer - cy guide us, and heal our strife - torn world
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main

WORDS: William W. Reid, Jr., 1958
 MUSIC: Welsh hymn melody; harm. by David Evans, 1927

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What is an Ebenezer?

In 1 Samuel 7, God shows up to the people of Israel in an awe inspiring way. When the people of Israel turn away from their idols and return back to the LORD, God provides protection and strength against the malicious forces of the Philistines. Because of the way God helped the people of Israel on that day, Samuel decided there needed to be a way to commemorate God's actions.

Samuel chose a rough stone and erected it in a fashion to remind all who passed by that God did something there. The stone of remembrance was called "Ebenezer," which means "God has helped us."

This week, we will be making our own "Ebenezers" by painting rough stones with some sort of depiction of how God has acted in our own lives. Next Sunday, I am asking you to bring in your stone so that we can erect our own pillar of remembrance using these stones.

God has been present in all of our lives. This Lenten Season, we are going to remember how God has helped bring peace into our lives by creating our own Ebenezer.

Announcements

- Please take the bulletin(s) that you have touched home with you.
- West End Food Pantry Donations
During Lent this year, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for our local food bank. A collection box is at the Bheam Ave. entrance.
- Calvary Preschool – Gardners Easter Candy Fundraiser
Calvary Preschool is now selling Gardners Easter candy. This fundraiser is to help keep tuition low, buy new supplies for our classroom and to allow for the end of the year activities with the students. If you are interested in ordering candy, order forms will be available for you to view in the front of the sanctuary. Next Sunday will be the last day to order. The candy will be distributed on Sunday, March 28. Thanks in advance for supporting our Preschool. If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Wilson or Brenda Strait.
- Arbutus Park Manor Auxiliary Annual Membership Drive
The Auxiliary raises money to help provide funds for special projects and needs for the residents that go beyond their immediate care to make life at the Manor more like home. This Drive is very important in helping them with this mission. Won't you consider helping in this way? Membership forms are in front of the sanctuary.
- Camp Allegheny Shoe Drive
We can support Camp Allegheny by donating *gently worn*, used or new shoes! Clean out your closets – Kid's, Women's, Men's, any size, any color! From slippers, flip flops and tennis shoes – to high heels, snow boots and cleats. Help put shoes on feet around the world! Drop them off at the Bheam Ave. door. Deadline will be March 28.
- Upper Room and Daily Bread Devotionals
The March-April devotionals are now available FREE. Pick up a copy for your family devotional time. They are in front of the sanctuary.