

Virtual Worship for March 7, 2021

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
Be strong do not fear!
Here is your God, he will come with vengeance,
With terrible recompense he will come and save you.
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
And the ears of the deaf unstopped;
Then the lame shall leap like a deer,
And the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
And streams in the desert;
The burning sand shall become a pool,
And the thirsty ground springs of water.
-Isaiah 35:4-7a

**PRELUDE – "Be Thou My Vision", arr. Marilyn Ham
Jorge Ochoa, violin; Elizabeth Ochoa, piano**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Kate Guthrie

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way.
- Feasting on the Word, Lenten Companion

**HYMN – The Summons, Hymn 726
Starmount Ensemble**

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 12:1-12

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

Then he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this scripture:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

**SERMON – “Waiting for a Wake-Up Call”
Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee**

**ANTHEM – “Our Lord Is in This Place” Mary McDonald
Starmount Ensemble**

This anthem was commissioned by Starmount to celebrate our 60th anniversary.

Surely, surely the Lord is in this place.
God is in this place; our Lord is in this place.

For where the Lord is there is holiness
for the Lord is great and greatly to be praised!

God is with us! God is for us, then who will stand against us?
There is nothing can separate us!

In the presence of the Lord there is love.
In the presence of the Lord there is peace.

Where the spirit of the Lord is, there will be peace.
In the power of the Lord there is joy!

For the Lord, our God, is great and greatly to be praised.
God is greatly to be praised.

Surely, surely the Lord is in this place.
God is in this place; our Lord is in this place.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION
Rev. Dr. Kate Guthrie**