



OLYMPIA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
February 28, 2021 • Second Sunday of Lent

GATHERING FOR THE JOURNEY

Prelude

Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

Welcome & Announcements

Virtual Check-In

GATHERED FOR WORSHIP

Song of Preparation

Ashes to Ashes

Ashes to ashes, from dust unto dust, the cross on our forehead, your promise, O God;
Ready us to follow, the way of your Son;
to rise from these ashes, redeemed in the fire of your love
As the highest of heavens surpasses the earth, so the might of God's mercy
is far from our shame
Ashes to ashes, from dust unto dust, the cross on our forehead, your promise, O God;
Ready us to follow, the way of your Son;
to rise from these ashes, redeemed in the fire of your love

Call-to-Worship

We gather this day to worship our God, whose words and ways challenge us.
God invites us to lose our selfishness to find ourselves
God calls us to be fools in the world to show forth the wisdom of Christ
God urges us to empty ourselves to discover life's fullness
God bids us to be obedient to a divine will so we might know true freedom
We come to worship our Creator, seeking to have our faith challenged into growth.
We root our faith in worship seeking to find nourishment for our spirits in this growing season of Lent.

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Hymn

We Come, O Christ, to You

#289 v. 1, 3, 4, 5

We come, O Christ, to You, true son of God and man, by whom all things consist,
In whom all life began: In You alone we live and move, and have our being in Your love.
You are the living Truth! All wisdom dwells in You, the Source of every skill, the One Eternal True!
O great I AM! In You we rest, sure answer to our every quest.
You only are true Life, to know You is to live...the more abundant life that earth can never give;
O risen Lord! We live in You, in us each day Your life renew!
We worship You, Lord Christ, our Savior and our King.
To You our youth and strength adoringly we bring:
So fill our hearts, that all may view Your life in us, and turn to You!

Invocation

Rev. Mark Rambo

Holy God, we thank you for this season of Lent, during which you invite us to come, to examine, to confess, to be renewed and healed. We have begun this journey eagerly, anticipating that, like Jesus in the wilderness, there are things which need to be lost so that better things may be found. Grant us courage to set aside easy answers and quick fixes in favor of your word that penetrates and transforms us. Enable us to see past the immediate satisfaction of our wants that we may choose instead the eternally fulfilling grace of your presence. Embolden our faith that we may trust you rather than the false and empty promises of our age. Thank you for walking this Lenten journey with us. May we emerge from it prepared to serve you with renewed passion and joy. Amen.

The Written Word

Romans 4: 13–25

NIV

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about a hundred years old – and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

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The Written Word (continued)

Romans 4: 13–25

NIV

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Song

You Do Not Walk Alone

Darrell Born

May you see God's light on the path ahead, when the road you walk in the dark.
May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone.
May you always remember when the shadows fail...You do not walk alone.

ENTERING GOD'S STORY

The Written Word

Mark 8: 31–38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Spoken Word

Get Back, Jack!

Rev. Mark Rambo

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Slideshow of Lent, Week 2

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The Written Word

Psalm 22: 23–31

The Message

Here's the story I'll tell my friends when they come to worship, and punctuate it with Hallelujahs: Shout Hallelujah, you God-worshippers; give glory, you sons of Jacob; adore God, you daughters of Israel. God has never let you down, never looked the other way when you were being kicked around. Has never wandered off to do God's own thing; but has been right there, listening. Here in this great gathering for worship I have discovered this praise-life.

And I'll do what I promised right here in front of the God-worshippers. Down-and-outers sit at God's table and eat their fill. Everyone on the hunt for God is here, in praise. "Live it up, from head to toe. Don't ever quit!" From the four corners of the earth people are coming to their senses, are running back to God. Long-lost families are falling on their faces before God, who has taken charge; from now on God has the last word. All the power-mongers are before God—worshiping! All the poor and powerless, too—worshiping! Along with those who never got it together—worshiping! Our children and their children will get in on this as the word is passed along from parent to child. Babies not yet conceived will hear the good news—that God does what God says.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Mark Rambo

God of grace, we come to this house of worship and place of prayer with thanksgiving. We come into your presence with gratitude, O God, that you hear our prayers.

Help us when we struggle to carry the cross of Christ faithfully this Lenten season. For those who tread on ground that is rocky with instability in their homes or jobs, we ask for your calming presence. For those who cannot find their way in the quagmire of grief and loss, we ask for the light of the Lord to guide them on the journey. For those who are ill or providing care for them, we ask for the peaceful serenity of the Holy Spirit. For those who feel abandoned because they have taken a stand for what is right, we ask for the assurance of your love. We know that to carry the cross is a commitment to a way of life; we try to carry the cross proudly. But sometimes we falter. Help us in our travels that we might walk steadfast and sure to Jerusalem – and beyond. Amen.

Song

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

(Chorus)

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Tithes & Offerings

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Hymn

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

#481

All the way my Savior leads me; what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy, who through life has been my guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me; cheers each winding path I tread;
Gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living bread;
Though my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me, Lo! a spring of joy I see.
Gushing from the rock before me, Lo! a spring of joy I see.

All the way my Savior leads me; O the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above;
when my spirit, clothed immortal, wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song thru endless ages, Jesus led me all the way.
This my song thru endless ages, Jesus led me all the way.

Weekly Challenge

Postlude

Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

Benediction

Walk Humbly • Love Completely • Live Differently