

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE

THE BODY OF CHRIST: THE HANDS OF CHRIST

MARCH 3, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

P: We worship as we live in the name of the Father (+)
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

P: You have
made us with your own hands, O God.

C: We are content in your loving hands, O Lord.

P: Your hands were the skilled hands of a carpenter. By your labor you have
dignified the work of our own hands.

**C: We are content in your loving
hands, O Lord.**

P: But our
hands have often been at work doing evil. Sometimes our hands are caught in the
very act of sin. Sometimes they take up stones to destroy others trapped in their
own web of sin. It is in your hands that we find mercy.

**C: We are content in your loving
hands, O Lord.**

P: It
was your sinless hands which were spread wide in blessing and nailed high on a
cross to cancel our sinful deeds.

**C: We are content in your loving hands, O
Lord.**

P: The salvation
you have given to us has made us unafraid of death, for when we shed these earthly
tents you will give us a permanent dwelling in your kingdom.

**C: Your hands provide all we need, and they comfort us by
our holy touch. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: # 768 “Lead Me, Guide Me”

Scripture Lessons:

First Lesson: Genesis 2:4-8

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when
they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,
when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet
sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there
was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the
whole face of the ground— then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the
ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a
living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there
he put the man whom he had formed.

Here ends the first lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95

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Psalm 95

The Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

C: The hands of God are great and strong; the whole world they enfold. In his hands are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it; and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

C: And all who to the Lord belong, His hands securely hold. Oh, come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

C: The hands of God are great and strong the whole world they enfold.

He is our God. We are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

C: And all who to the Lord belong His hands securely hold. The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:1-9

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

Here ends our second lesson.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel John 8:1-11

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

Sermon: The Hands of Christ

Hymn: #767 “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

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Prayers for the Body of Christ

P: Let us pray for the whole body of Christ and for all people according to their needs. For all nations of the world that their hands may be productive, peaceful and full of charity, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Into your hands, O Lord, we commit them.

P: For your body, the church, that our hands may carry the Gospel to all people, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Into your hands, O Lord, we commit them.

P: For our congregation, that our hands may join in fellowship with those whose need for your love is unfulfilled; let us pray to the Lord:

C: Into your hands, O Lord, we commit them.

P: For those who are caught in sin and for those who would destroy them while ignoring their own sins, that they may be reconciled by the forgiveness for which your hands were pierced, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Into your hands, O Lord, we commit them.

P: For the sick that your hands which so often reached out to strengthen the infirm and to heal the ill will also touch them with your healing power, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Into your hands, O Lord, we commit them.

P: For those who have died in the faith, we give you thanks and ask for your consolation to those who grieve. For ourselves that at the time of our death our hands will be clasped in your own as you welcome us into the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Into your hands, O Lord, we commit them.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commit all for whom we pray, believing in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord join hands with you and lead you. The Lord place his hands upon you and give you peace. **C: Amen.**

P: Go in peace, for the hands of Christ are holding you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn: #773 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”