

ORDER of WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14th, 2021

[Jesus said] "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
John 10:10

Greeting and Welcome

Prelude Music

Call to Worship

In the midst of life's storms, God is there.

What have we to fear?

In the darkness and terror, God is with us.

Of whom shall we be afraid?

Rise up, people of God, for you are loved and saved.

Thanks be to God who cares deeply for us.

Opening Prayer (Inspired by Matthew 5:13-16)

Lord, we have come this day, seeking your presence and healing love. Be with us as we hear the words of hope and compassion. Give us courage to learn and grow that we might serve you faithfully all of our days. Amen.

Opening Hymn of Praise

"How Firm a Foundation"

UMH #529

Words: "K" in Rippon's *A Selections of Hymns*. Music: Early USA melody; harm. from *Tabor*.

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**1. "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?"**

**2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**3. "When through deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

Affirmation of Faith: Lenten Creed

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,

who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

**We believe that Christ is the divine child of the living God,
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling spirit of God
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,
and that hard times and discipline are also loving gifts.**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,
and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

**This is our faith, and we are humbled to profess it in the name of Jesus the Christ.
Amen.**

*Source: Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide, Patmos Abbey — The Order of Saint Columba website.
patmosabbey.org. This litany comes from a longer liturgy.*

Gloria Patri

“Glory Be to the Father”

UMH #70

Music: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent. Music: Charles Meineke, 1844.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Anthem

“Come with Me”

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Lenten Bag Symbol for 4th Sunday in Lent

Prayers of the People

Hymn

“Stand By Me”

UMH #512

(Verses 1-3)

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**1. When the storms of life are raging,
stand by me; (stand by me)
when the storms of life are raging,
stand by me. (stand by me)
When the world is tossing me,
like a ship upon the sea,
thou who rulest wind and water,
stand by me. (stand by me)**

**2. In the midst of tribulation,
stand by me; (stand by me)
in the midst of tribulation,
stand by me. (stand by me)**

**When the hosts of hell assail,
and my strength begins to fail,
thou who never lost a battle,
stand by me. (stand by me)**

**3. In the midst of faults and failures,
stand by me; (stand by me)
in the midst of faults and failures,
stand by me. (stand by me)
When I've done the best I can,
and my friends misunderstand,
thou who knowest all about me,
stand by me. (stand by me)**

Gospel Reading

Mark 4:35-41 (NRSV)

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Don't rock the Boat: Calming the Storm"

Rev. Matthew Sergent

Hymn

"Be Still, My Soul"

UMH #534

Words: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752, trans. By Jane Borthwick, 1855. Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. From The Hymnal, 1933. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**2. Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.**

**3. Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,**

**sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

Benediction

As the Lord has given to you such peace and healing, now go into the world offering God's love and hope to others. Go in peace and remember that God goes with you. Amen.

Postlude

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer by Ministry Matters, Worship Connection, June 24, 2018.