

Order of Worship for Sunday, February 21, 2020

1st Sunday of Lent – The Power of Sacrifice: Expand Your Mind

**The heart of Jesus' gospel is to continue
expanding our perspective and changing our direction.**

***Not available on prerecorded services**

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CALL TO WORSHIP

L: There are some journeys for which we long.

P: **But the journey to the cross looks as though it will be difficult.**

L: The way of discipleship and faith is difficult.

P: **We would prefer something easier. We are not ready for this trip.**

L: Put your hearts at ease. You are not traveling alone.

P: **Perhaps we can accomplish this trip. At least we will try the first step.**

OPENING PRAYER

The season of Lent is here again and, as with so many times before, we find that we are not really ready for this journey of discipleship. So many things claim our lives and prevent us from being ready to take the steps in faith. As we look at our barrier of readiness, help us to remember that Christ is with us, every step of the way. We are not alone. Christ will help lift our hearts and spirits and direct our paths. Enable us, loving Savior, to take this journey of faith to new life with you. AMEN.

***HYMN** O Jesus, I Have Promised UMH 396 v. 1 & 2 only

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Noah: A Rainbow of Promises

JOYS AND CONCERNS - (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Mark 1:9-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22

MESSAGE Expand Your Mind

***HYMN** O Jesus, I Have Promised UMH 396 v. 3 & 4 only

COMMISSION & BLESSING

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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BIBLE STUDY: This Is the Sign

Read Genesis 9:8-17

- What might be the difference between a contract and a covenant? [Biblically, a covenant is an arrangement between unequals; whereas, a contract is an agreement between equals.]
- What words and themes are repeated? [covenant, remembering, bow (literally a weapon of war)] How are these themes expressed in this passage?
- Read Genesis 6:1-8. How might this seemingly strange story be a fitting introduction to the story of Noah and the flood? [It revealed the depth of wickedness into which God's good creation had descended.] How might this story of the flood be a story of re-creation? [Just as God brought forth life through waters of chaos in Genesis 1, so God is bringing forth new life through the waters of a flood. This time, God adds the promise of being the protector.]
- How was the rainbow a sign of God's promise? How might the church function as that promise today? What might that say about us? [Through the grace of God, we become the sign of God at work in the world.]
- How is Jesus the ultimate covenant maker? How is Jesus the ultimate "bow" or "rainbow" as a sign of God's presence in the world?
- How might the work of rending our hearts contribute to being a sign of God's presence in the world? [God works mightily through the weak, broken, and humble to demonstrate God's power and goodness.]

CLOSING PRAYER

Covenant God, we give you thanks for your faithfulness even when we are faithless. We especially give you thanks for Jesus, an eternal sign of your love among us. By your Holy Spirit, empower us, through our words and deeds, to be a sign of your grace at work in the world. Amen.