

Order of Worship for Sunday, March 21, 2021

5th Sunday of Lent – The Power of Sacrifice: Sacrificial Bravery

*Not available on prerecorded services

Listen at 814-422-6238. Watch online at www.PennsValleyParish.info

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: This is the fifth step on our Lenten journey, the step of sacrifice.

P: Be with us, Lord, as we take this step.

L: This requires the willingness to give all of your life to the Lord.

P: Be with us, Lord, as we commit our lives to you.

L: Come, let us worship and offer our voices of praise to God.

P: Let us open our hearts and spirits to God this day.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, be with us this day as we commit ourselves to being your disciples. Help us to face the future unafraid, trusting in your loving care and presence with us. We pray this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

*HYMN Go to Dark Gethsemane UMH 290

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 The Power of God's Love

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

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

MESSAGE Sacrificial Bravery

*HYMN Crown Him with Many Crowns UMH 327

COMMISSION & BLESSING

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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BIBLE STUDY: Written on the Heart

Read [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#).

- How is this new covenant that God will make different from the first? [*The defining act of the first covenant was the Exodus. This passage only hints at the new covenant's defining act coming through forgiveness.*]
- How is this new covenant similar to the first? [*In the first covenant, the relationship was characterized as a marriage (v. 32). In this new covenant, God describes the relationship as one where we shall be God's people.*]
- How is our covenant relationship with God both binding and freeing? [*We become free to serve God and live in a new way. We have a new desire or even choose to be bound to the law of God – loving God and neighbor. (See also Matthew 10:39.)*]
- During Lent, we are reminded how far from living more fully into this covenant relationship we are as individuals and as a community of faith. We don't always act out of love for God and neighbor. We don't always act as those who have God's law written on our hearts. How might Lenten practices, such as denying ourselves certain luxuries, become acts of reminders of the abundant life we are called to live?
- As a group, find a prayer to read and recite together. You might use the [Confession and Pardon from The United Methodist Hymnal](#) or the [Prayer for Confession of Sin from the Book of Common Prayer](#). What insights do you gain from these prayers? How might praying these prayers or similar prayer daily become a helpful prayer practice?

CLOSING PRAYER

Covenant-making God, you desire our freedom – the freedom to serve and love you and our neighbors with our whole being. Through our humility and the rending of our hearts, create in us a new passion for obedience to your ways and to see all experience the freedom that comes from serving you. Enable us to see the hurts and pains others experience that we might better respond as the covenant people of God. Amen.