

February 21, 2021 ~ 1st Sunday in Lent
10 a.m.

GATHERING MUSIC

"Lord Listen to Your Children"

Chorus

Lord listen to Your children praying
Lord send Your Spirit in this place
Lord listen to Your children praying
Send us love send us pow'r send us grace

Verse 1

Something's gonna happen
Like the world has never known
When the people of the Lord get down to pray
A door's gonna swing open
And the walls come a-tumbling down
When the people of the Lord get down to pray

Verse 2

He's gonna take over
He's gonna take control
When the people of the Lord get down to pray
He's gonna move the mountain
He's gonna make the waters roll
When the people of the Lord get down to pray

Verse 3

You're gonna know it
When the Lord stretches out His hand
And the people of the Lord get down to pray
There's gonna be a brand new song
Of vict'ry in this land
When the people of the Lord get down to pray

CCLI Song # 22829, Ken Medema, CCLI License # 701016

"Reckless Love"

Verse 1

Before I spoke a word You were singing over me
You have been so so good to me
Before I took a breath You breathed Your life in me
You have been so so kind to me

Chorus

**(And) O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God yeah**

Verse 2

**When I was Your foe still Your love fought for me
You have been so so good to me
When I felt no worth You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me**

Bridge

**There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me**

CCLI Song # 7089641, Caleb Culver | Cory Asbury | Ran Jackson, CCLI License # 701016

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L God meets us in the night—

**C Before the sun rises,
Before the wound heals,
Before there are answers,
Before there is closure.**

L God meets us in the light—

**C Where joy is effervescent,
Where laughter is contagious,
Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
And where people gather around the table.**

L God meets us at the threshold—

**C At the edge of the water,
At the beginning of the wilderness,
At the start of something new,
On the edge of faith.**

- L And if God meets us in all those places,
Then surely God meets us in between—
- C Staying with us through the wilderness.**
- L We are not alone. God is all around.
- C Let us worship the God of the here and now.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

- L Again and again, God meets us where we are.
God's love knows no bounds, which is hard for us to understand and easy for us
to forget. Therefore, in confession we remember together that we are not alone.
And in a unified voice, we once again ask for God's grace in that holy reminder.
Family of faith, please pray with me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L God who meets us where we are—There is nowhere we can go that you are not.
- C You were with Jesus at his baptism. You were with him in the wilderness, And
even in between, you were there, Saying aloud, "This is my beloved."**
- L We know that you are with us too—In the good, the bad, and everything in
between—But so often we act like we are alone.
- C Instead of coming to you with our hurt, We hold it in or cast it onto others.
Instead of coming to you with our joy, We credit ourselves and offer you
nothing.**
- L How can we long for a deeper relationship with you?
While living like you are nowhere to be found?
- C Forgive our self-centered ways. Remind us that in every breath, in every step,
you are there.**
- L You are the God who meets us where we are.
- C Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

- P Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this: God is here. God sees
you. God knows you. God meets you at the edge of every new beginning,
And God calls you beloved.
- C: We are washed by the water. We are called beloved. Thanks be to God for a
love like that.**

MUSIC

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

- 1. What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!**

**Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!**

**2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**3. Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

P Holy God, If I am honest, faith often feels like water in my hands.
No matter how hard I try to hold onto it, some of it always slips through—
Like droplets of truth running down my wrists, back toward my heart.
This human inability to hold onto you leaves me thirsty for more.
So as we prepare to read scripture, I pray that once again, you would meet us
here. Meet us in our hope and our heartache. Meet us in our fear and our joy,
Meet us in our cupped hands and clenched fists. And even if the water keeps
running, And we do not have a sky-parting moment of clarity, Or a tangible
sense that you are near; Even if we do not hear the words, “This is my beloved,”
Ringing in our ears, We will trust that you are near, Always and forever meeting
us here, Running toward our hearts. Gratefully we pray,

C **Amen.**

MUSIC

Greg Adamson, Cello

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 25:1-10

L To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

L Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C **Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

L Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

C **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

L Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me
according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

C **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

L You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

C **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

L Word of God, word of life. C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Wade in the Water”*

*Refrain: Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.*

**1 See that host all dressed in white,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
the leader looks like the Israelite.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

**Refrain: Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

**2 See that band all dressed in red,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
looks like the band that Moses led.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

*Refrain: Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.*

**3 Look over yonder, what do I see?
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

*Refrain: Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.*

**4 If you don't believe I've been redeemed,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
just follow me down to Jordan's stream.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

*Refrain: Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.*

Text: African American spiritual

BEFORE THE READING

L Today's Gospel reading is from the book of Mark, beginning in the 1st chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P The Gospel of the Lord. C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Nate Allen

MUSIC

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here,
Bigger than the sky and in the smallest details,
All at once and in every moment.
We believe that God meets us where we are—
In heartbreak and high hopes,
Around crowded tables and in quiet homes,

In joy and in suffering,
In loneliness and in connection,
In sanctuaries and in living rooms,
In marches and in waiting rooms.
We believe that nothing we do or leave undone
Can distance us from God's love.
God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in.
Again and again, God meets us where we are
And invites us into wholeness.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

OFFERING

"Who You Say I Am"

Verse 1

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me. Oh His love for me

Chorus 1

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Verse 2

Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

Chorus 2

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Bridge

I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am

CCLI Song # 7102401, Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan, CCLI License # 701016

LET US, GOD'S PEOPLE, PRAY

L ~ O God of our Salvation, awaken our senses to the very ground we live on, to all humankind, and every living creature. Turn us from the pursuit of temporary pleasure to seek eternal life in the Spirit, through trust and faith in You.

Gracious, Loving Lord

C We lift our souls to You

L ~ O God of our Salvation, grant us the wisdom and willingness to speak with Christ's voice to every leader on this earth, and to stand with and encourage all who work diligently for justice, mercy, peace, and the health of all.

Gracious, Loving Lord

C We lift our souls to You

L ~ O God of our Salvation, ease the struggle for all who suffer the pain of illness, isolation, or desperation; and sustain the energy of those who give them care. We join our voices to pray for those in need.

Gracious, Loving Lord

C We lift our souls to You

L ~ O God of our Salvation, even amidst the shadow of grief, we give praise and thanksgiving for those we love, who have now risen in glory, and returned to life eternal in You.

Gracious, Loving Lord

C We lift our souls to You

P ~ O God of our Salvation, we *pause* in this moment to offer You our other heartfelt thanksgivings, intercessions, petitions, and memorials, aloud or silently...

Gracious, Loving Lord

C We lift our souls to You

P Living Lord of Love and Faithfulness, infuse us with the desire to use this season of Lent as a time of our own spiritual wilderness for the cleansing of our hearts and souls through examination and expansion of our faith. We ask this through Christ, who suffered for the sins of us all, and the Holy Spirit, the breath of You in our souls, who together with You, reign as One God, over all Creation, forever and ever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L Let us pray with confidence in the words our Living Lord Jesus gave us:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our**

daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN REFRAIN

“Again & Again”

L As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God’s goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God’s grace.
And may this be your rhythm—
Again, and again, and again,
Until God’s promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.

C **Amen.**

Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctify

MUSIC

“Guide My Feet Lord”

1. **Guide my feet while I run this race!
Guide my feet while I run this race!
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don’t want to run this race in vain!**
2. **Hold my hand...**
3. **Stand by me...**
4. **I’m your child...**
5. **Search my heart...**

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
C **Thanks be to God**