



to live, speak, and serve as the very presence of Jesus  
for Collingswood and its surrounding boroughs.

## Gathering Before God

March 19, 2023  
Fourth Sunday of Lent

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

#### God Is Good

Even when it seems the answer's no  
The promises of God all find their yes  
In Christ who worked the Father's will below  
That all who run to him would find their rest

And even when it seems he hides his face  
And darkness seems to be our only friend  
We look to Christ who suffered in our place  
That one day all our suffering would end

*God is good, all of the time  
All of the time, God is good  
God is good, all of the time  
God is good*

And even when it seems he pays no mind  
We have a guarantee of his great love  
In Christ who came and left his crown behind  
That one day we would reign with him above

Lord we believe, but help our unbelief  
Lord we believe, but help our hearts to sing

*That you are good, all of the time  
All of the time, you are good  
You are good, all of the time  
You are good*

Lord You are good

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart; we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.*

**People: We will be glad and exult in you; we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**

*Leader: Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.*

**People: He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.**

(from Psalm 9 and Isaiah 40)

## GREETING

*Leader: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### Come Ye Sinners

Come ye sinners, poor and wretched,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
Full of pity joined with power.  
He is able, He is able,  
He is willing, doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance,  
Every grace that brings you nigh.  
Without money, without money,  
Come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come ye weary, heavy laden,  
Bruised and broken by the fall;  
If you tarry till you're better,  
You will never come at all.  
Not the righteous, not the righteous,  
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requires  
Is to feel your need of Him.  
This He gives you, this He gives you,  
Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended;  
Pleads the merit of His blood.  
Venture on Him, venture wholly,  
Let no other trust intrude.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus,  
Can do helpless sinners good.

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## King of My Heart

Let the King of my heart  
Be the mountain where I run  
The fountain I drink from  
Oh He is my song  
Let the King of my heart  
Be the shadow where I hide  
The ransom for my life  
Oh, He is my song

*You are good, good, oh  
You are good, good, oh  
You are good, good, oh  
You are good, good, oh*

Let the King of my heart  
Be the wind inside my sails  
The anchor in the waves  
Oh, He is my song  
Let the King of my heart  
Be the fire inside my veins  
And the echo of my days  
Oh, He is my song

You're never gonna let  
Never gonna let me down  
You're never gonna let  
Never gonna let me down

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is nothing good in us.**

**O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to your promises declared unto men in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His name. Amen.**

Silent Confession

## WORDS OF PARDON

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

(Ephesians 2:4-7)

## PASSING THE PEACE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## The Word of God

### SCRIPTURE READING - Genesis 21:8-21

**8** And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. **9** But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. **10** So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac." **11** And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son. **12** But God said to Abraham, "Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. **13** And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring." **14** So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

**15** When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes. **16** Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Let me not look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. **17** And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. **18** Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation." **19** Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. **20** And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. **21** He

lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

*Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

### **SERMON**

Speaker: Jim Angehr

Title: "Desolation and Consolation"

Series: "Genesis: Then and Now"

## **THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

*Leader: Let us say what we believe.*

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:  
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He arose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader: Lord in your mercy.*

**People: Hear our prayer.**

# The Lord's Table

## MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

*Leader: Beloved in the Lord Jesus, the meal which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, communion, and hope.*

*We come to remember that Jesus was sent into the world to assume our flesh and blood, to become God with us, that we might be redeemed.*

*We come to have communion with this same Christ who has promised to be with us even to the end of the world.*

*We come in hope, believing that this bread and this cup are a pledge and a foretaste of a new heaven and a new earth, where we shall behold God.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Leader: The Lord be with you*

**People: And also with you.**

*Leader: Lift up your hearts!*

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Leader: Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith.*

**People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Leader: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.*

**People: Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*Leader: Here is the bread of life given for us;  
Let all who hunger come and eat.  
Here is the fruit of the vine, poured out for us;  
Let all who thirst come and drink.*

*Holy Communion, also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ.*

## PRAYERS FOR REFLECTION

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church. If you are unable to receive Communion, we invite you to meditate on one of the following prayers:

**Prayer for those Searching for Truth:** Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

**Prayer of Belief:** Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Prayer of Commitment:** Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.



## Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou, my great Father, and I, Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Thou, mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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## The Sending

### BENEDICTION

*Leader: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Now and forevermore, go in peace.*

(2 Cor 13:14)

**People: Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

*Leader: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

**People: Thanks be to God!**