***Mid-week Lenten Service***

**5th Wednesday in Lent *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound…* March 24, 2021**

**Greeting**

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!*

*I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.*

*When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,*

*we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun.*

**Hymn** *“I Love to Tell the Story”*

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, because I know ‘tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

*Refrain:* I love to tell the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory,

 to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.

I love to tell the story, it did so much for me; and that is just the reason I tell it now to thee. *[Refrain]*

I love to tell the story; ‘tis pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.

 I love to tell the story, for some have never heard

the message of salvation from God’s own holy Word. *[Refrain]*

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.

And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,

‘twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. *[Refrain]*

**Prayer of Confession**

 **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought,**

 **word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

 **We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors**

 **as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your**

 **Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight**

 **in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your name. Amen.**

**Silent Meditation Words of Forgiveness**

**Chorus of Thanks** *“Grace Greater than Our Sin”*

*Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;*

*grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!*

**Psalter** *Psalm 126*

 When the Lord changed Zion’s circumstances for the better, it was like we had been dreaming.
 **2**Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter; our tongues were filled with joyful shouts.

 It was even said, at that time, among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them!”
 **3**Yes, the Lord has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed.

 **4**Lord, change our circumstances for the better, like dry streams in the desert waste!
 **5**Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts.

 **6**Let those who go out,  crying and carrying their seed,

 come home with joyful shouts, carrying bales of grain!

**Scripture Lesson** *Revelation 4:1-11*

 After this I looked and there was a door that had been opened in heaven. The first voice that I had heard,

 which sounded like a trumpet, said to me, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place

 after this.” **2**At once I was in a Spirit-inspired trance and I saw a throne in heaven, and someone

 was seated on the throne. **3**The one seated there looked like jasper and carnelian,

 and surrounding the throne was a rainbow that looked like an emerald. **4**Twenty-four thrones,

 with twenty-four elders seated upon them, surrounded the throne. The elders were dressed

 in white clothing and had gold crowns on their heads. **5**From the throne came lightning, voices,

 and thunder. In front of the throne were seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits

 of God. **6**Something like a glass sea, like crystal, was in front of the throne.

 In the center, by the throne, were four living creatures encircling the throne. These creatures

 were covered with eyes on the front and on the back. **7**The first living creature was like a lion.

 The second living creature was like an ox. The third living creature had a face like a human being.

 And the fourth living creature was like an eagle in flight. **8**Each of the four living creatures had six wings,

 and each was covered all around and on the inside with eyes. They never rest day or night

 but keep on saying,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is coming.”

 **9**Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one seated on the throne

 who lives forever and always, **10**the twenty-four elders fall before the one seated on the throne.

 They worship the one who lives forever and always. They throw down their crowns before the throne

 and say,

**11**“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power,

because you created all things. It is by your will that they existed and were created.”

**Reflections of Grace *Witness of Grace***

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Merciful God, we your children humbly thank you for all of your goodness. We thank you for blessing us in all the ways that you do. Above all, we thank you for saving and redeeming us through your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and for the grace and hope that is ours through Him. We ask that you would heighten our awareness of your grace that we would be ever more thankful, leading us to praise you with our whole being, and serve you all our days. We pray this through our Savior, Jesus Christ, even as we pray as He taught us, *Our Father…***

**Hymn** *“I Am Thine, O Lord”*

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me;

but I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee.

*Refrain: Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died.*

 *Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious bleeding side.*

Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine;

let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in thine. *[Refrain]*

O the pure delight of a single hour that before thy throne I spend, when I kneel in prayer,

and with thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend! *[Refrain]*

There are depths of love that I cannot know till I cross the narrow sea;

There are heights of joy that I may not reach till I rest in peace with thee. *[Refrain]*

**Benediction**

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*We are glad that you are with us tonight.*

*As next week is Holy Week, please know we will have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services,*

*via Zoom, at 7 PM on each of those evenings.*

*Our upcoming Palm/Passion and Easter Sunday services (again, via Zoom) will be at 10:30 AM*