***Mid-week Lenten Service***

**3rd Wednesday in Lent *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound…* March 10, 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.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;*

*‘tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

**Hymn** *“The Old Rugged Cross”* # 504

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;

and I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

 *Refrain: So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;*

 *I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.*

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;

for the dear Lamb of God left His glory above to bear it to dark Calvary. *[Refrain]*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear;

then He’ll call me some day to my home far away, where His glory for ever I’ll share. *[Refrain]*

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see,

for ‘twas on that old cross, Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me. *[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 63*

 God! My God! It’s you—I search for you! My whole being thirsts for you! My body desires you

 in a dry and tired land, no water anywhere. **2**Yes, I’ve seen you in the sanctuary;

  I’ve seen your power and glory. **3**My lips praise you because your faithful love is better than life itself!
 **4**So I will bless you as long as I’m alive; I will lift up my hands in your name.

 **5**I’m fully satisfied—as with a rich dinner. My mouth speaks praise with joy on my lips—
 **6** whenever I ponder you on my bed, whenever I meditate on you in the middle of the night—
 **7** because you’ve been a help to me and I shout for joy in the protection of your wings.
 **8**My whole being clings to you; your strong hand upholds me.

 **9**But what about those people who want to destroy me? Let them go into the bowels of the earth!
**10** Let their blood flow by the sword! Let them be food for wild jackals!
**11**But the king should rejoice in God;

 everyone who swears by God should give praise when the mouths of liars are shut for good.

**Scripture Lesson** *2 Corinthians 4:7-18*

 **7**But we have this treasure in clay pots so that the awesome power belongs to God

 and doesn’t come from us. **8**We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren’t crushed.

 We are confused, but we aren’t depressed. **9**We are harassed, but we aren’t abandoned.

 We are knocked down, but we aren’t knocked out.

 **10**We always carry Jesus’ death around in our bodies so that Jesus’ life can also be seen

 in our bodies. **11**We who are alive are always being handed over to death for Jesus’ sake

 so that Jesus’ life can also be seen in our bodies that are dying. **12**So death is at work in us,

 but life is at work in you. **13**We have the same faithful spirit as what is written in scripture:

 *I had faith, and so I spoke.* We also have faith, and so we also speak.

**14**We do this because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus,

 and he will bring us into his presence along with you. **15**All these things are for your benefit.

 As grace increases to benefit more and more people, it will cause gratitude to increase,

 which results in God’s glory.

 **16**So we aren’t depressed. But even if our bodies are breaking down on the outside,

 the person that we are on the inside is being renewed every day. **17**Our temporary minor problems

 are producing an eternal stockpile of glory for us that is beyond all comparison.

 **18**We don’t focus on the things that can be seen but on the things that can’t be seen.

 The things that can be seen don’t last, but the things that can’t be seen are eternal.

**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. Amen.**

**Hymn** *“Beams of Heaven as I Go”* # 524

 Beams of heaven as I go, through this wilderness below, guide my feet in peaceful ways,

 turn my midnights into days. When in the darkness I would grope, faith always sees a star of hope,

 and soon from all life’s grief and danger I shall be free someday.

*Refrain: I do not know how long ‘twill be, nor what the future holds for me,*

 *but this I know: if Jesus leads me, I shall get home someday.*

 Often-times my sky is clear, joy abounds without a tear; though a day so bright begun,

 clouds may hide tomorrow’s sun. There’ll be a day that’s always bright,

 a day that never yields to night, and in its light the streets of glory I shall behold someday. *[Refrain]*

 Harder yet may be the fight; right may often yield to might; wickedness a while may reign;

 Satan’s cause may seem to gain. There is a God that rules above, with hand of power

 and heart of love; if I am right, He’ll fight my battle, I shall have peace someday. *[Refrain]*

 Burdens now may crush me down, disappointments all around; troubles speak in mournful sigh,

 sorrow through a tear-stained eye. There is a world where pleasure reigns, no mourning soul

 shall roam its plains, and to that land of peace and glory I want to go someday. *[Refrain]*

**Benediction**

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

*Please be reminded that each Wednesday during this season of Lent*

*we will gather, via Zoom, at 7 PM.*

*Our theme for Lent is “Amazing Grace.”*