



MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

March 24, 2021 - 6:30PM

AS WE GATHER: *Rolling Stones* - Drawing on the rich imagery of rocks and stones in Scripture, this Lenten sermon series centers around the compelling metaphor of stones. These metaphors illustrate God's will for our lives and our failure to trust, follow and obey Him in all things. These stones show us our sins and our need for a Savior, Jesus, the Rock of our Salvation. Join us this Lenten season as we journey to the Cross of Christ and the forgiveness that He won for us. This series begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, and continues Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings during Lent.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #424

"O Christ, You Walked the Road"

- 1 O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r
And fought our ancient foe.
- 2 No bread of earth alone
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,
The food Your grace imparts.
- 3 No blinding sign we ask,
No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone
In Your unswerving love.
- 4 When lures of easy gain
With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;
Our wills with Yours align.
- 5 O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour
To fight our ancient foe.

INVOCATION

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips.
People: And my mouth will declare Your praise.

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
People: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

CANTICLE #650

"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"

- 1 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling
In the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding
O'er a world of gloom and night;
Holy Spirit, ever raising
Those of earth to thrones on high;
Living, life-imparting Spirit,
You we praise and magnify.
- 2 Holy Spirit, ever living
As the Church's very life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving
Through us in a ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit, ever forming
In the Church the mind of Christ:
You we praise with endless worship
For Your gifts and fruits unpriced.

3 Holy Spirit, ever working
 Through the Church's ministry;
 Quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving,
 Setting captive sinners free;
 Holy Spirit, ever binding
 Age to age and soul to soul
 In communion never ending,
 You we worship and extol.

THE LITANY OF CONFESSION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and
 of one another.

People: We confess to you, Merciful Father,
 **That we have not treated each other with
 patience and love.**

Pastor: We confess to you, Jesus, our Savior,

People: **That we have rejected You, the Living Stone.**

Pastor: We confess to you, Spirit Comforter,

People: **That our we have not lived in peace and unity
 with one another.**

Pastor: O Lord,

People: **Have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

People: **Have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

People: **Have mercy. Amen.**

(Time for silent reflection and confession)

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy
 upon us and has given His only Son to die for us
 and for His sake forgives us all our sins.

 As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by
 His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins
 in the name of the Father and of the Son and of
 the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CANTICLE #651

"I Love Your Kingdom, Lord"

- 1 I love Your kingdom, Lord,
The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.
- 2 Beyond my highest joy
I prize its heav'nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows,
Its hymns of love and praise.
- 3 I love Your Church, O God,
Your saints in ev'ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye
And graven on Your hand.
- 4 For them my tears shall fall;
For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv'n
Till toils and cares shall end.
- 5 Sure as Your truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heav'n.

FIRST READING

Ephesians 4:1-6

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:4-6

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

*“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”*

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION **“Rolling Stones: Alone”**
Pastor Jeff Schubert

HYMN #647 *“Lord Jesus, Christ the Church’s Head”*

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s head,
 You are her one foundation;
 In You she trusts, before You bows,
 And waits for Your salvation.
 Built on this rock secure,
 Your Church shall endure
 Though all the world decay
 And all things pass away.
 O hear, O hear us, Jesus!
- 2 O Lord, let this Your little flock,
 Your name alone confessing,
 Continue in Your loving care,
 True unity possessing.
 Your sacraments, O Lord,
 And Your saving Word
 To us, Lord, pure retain.
 Grant that they may remain
 Our only strength and comfort.
- 3 Help us to serve You evermore
 With hearts both pure and lowly;
 And may Your Word, that light divine,
 Shine on in splendor holy
 That we repentance show,
 In faith ever grow;
 The pow’r of sin destroy
 And evils that annoy.
 O make us faithful Christians.

4 And for Your Gospel let us dare
 To sacrifice all treasure;
 Teach us to bear Your blessed cross,
 To find in You all pleasure.
 O grant us steadfastness
 In joy and distress,
 Lest we, Lord, You forsake.
 Let us by grace partake
 Of endless joy and gladness.

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OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Create in Me”



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

LITANY

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church here and around the
 world, and people everywhere in their various
 needs.

For everyone weighed down by their bondage to
 sin and an inability to stop sinning by thought,
 word, and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
 People: For the sake of Christ's sacrifice, heavenly
 Father, open their ears to hear the Gospel
 anew; free them to live before You in Your
 kingdom.

Pastor: For everyone who has fallen prey to society's distorted morality, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **For the sake of Christ's sacrifice, heavenly Father, surround them with faithful and caring members of the Body of Christ; call them back in repentance and hope.**

Pastor: For those who keep the peace at home or are deployed abroad, for those who provide care and guidance in relationships, finances, and health, and for those who respond to natural disasters and crises of various sorts, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **For the sake of Christ's sacrifice, heavenly Father, accompany them with Your Holy Spirit; protect them from harm, and give them wisdom in all circumstances.**

Pastor: For ourselves and the Church around the world as we seek to live according to Your will, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **For the sake of Christ's sacrifice, heavenly Father, assure us that we are Your redeemed children; forgive our errors, and send us to serve in faithfulness and love.**

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

All: **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.**

CLOSING LENTEN COLLECT

Pastor: Dear Father in heaven, who having created us knows well our frailties, purify our motives for all our works, that they proceed from faith in Christ, our Redeemer, and be done because we love You above all else; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who

with You and the Holy Spirit are one God with
dominion over us forever. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of
God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with
you all.

People: Amen.

CLOSING CANTICLE #649

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds
 Our hearts in Christian love;
 The fellowship of kindred minds
 Is like to that above.
- 2 Before our Father’s throne
 We pour our ardent prayers;
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
 Our comforts and our cares.
- 3 We share our mutual woes,
 Our mutual burdens bear,
 And often for each other flows
 The sympathizing tear.
- 4 When here our pathways part,
 We suffer bitter pain;
 Yet, one in Christ and one in heart,
 We hope to meet again.
- 5 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
 And sin we shall be free
 And perfect love and friendship reign
 Through all eternity.

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Guest Organist: Sheri Fleischfresser
Acolytes: Alex and Andrew Harshbarger
Sound: Shannon Bader
Elder: John Uttech

