

1st Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

10:00am

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Gathering and Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**All: We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.**

One: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

**All: We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!**

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**All: We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!**

Opening Hymn

“Shall We Gather at the River”

No. 723

Opening Prayer

**Journey with us, O holy God, as we begin our way to the cross. Sharpen our focus, that our attention may center more on you than ourselves. Lead us through the shadows of darkness and prepare our hearts, that we might be a people of prayer, ready to perceive and respond to your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**God, forgive our doubting, questioning hearts. Like the scribes who witnessed Jesus’ miracles of healing and heard his proclamation, yet spurned belief, we too have seen wonders, yet have hardened our hearts. We confess the many times that our pessimism has caused others to doubt themselves**

**and your Spirit, the times that our criticism has wounded others, the times that our dejection has dampened the enthusiasm of those inspired by your Word and work. O God, forgive us and in your mercy renew us, that with open hearts we may believe and never pose an obstacle to the faith of others. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Special Music

Scripture Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

Hymn of Preparation

“This is My Father’s World”

No. 144

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

Sermon

Saved Through Water

Pastor Sam

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Closing Hymn

“Spirit Song”

No. 347

Thank You

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

**Large print bulletins and hymnals are available. If you would like one, please see an usher.**