

February 28, 2010, 9:15 am - Fresh Spirit Worship - Second Sunday in Lent

As we gather for worship,  
please introduce yourself to those around you.  
There are no strangers in God's house.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Here We Are To Worship* Tim Hughes

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness,  
Opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore You,  
Hope of a life spent with You.

(Refrain)

Here we are to worship, here we are to bow down,  
Here we are to say that You're our God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to us.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,  
Glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly You came to the earth You created,  
All for love's sake became poor. (Refrain x 2)

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WELCOME

REFLECTION FOR PEACE

GATHERING THE PEOPLE

One: Give us a spiritual rebirth, O God.

**All:** *As we read the Word and receive inspiration, there is joy.*

One: Give us a spiritual rebirth, O God.

**All:** *As we encounter the saints and follow their example,  
we take courage.*

One: Give us a spiritual rebirth, O God.

**All:** *As we feel support in community and give of our talents,  
our faith comes alive.*

One: Give us a spiritual rebirth, O God.

**All:** *As we as we reflect on Jesus Christ, and renew our commitment,  
we know peace.*

One: Let us worship God!

SUNG RESPONSE (from The Servant Song)

**All:** *We are pilgrims on a journey,  
We are travelers on the road.  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

UNISON PRAYER FOR LENT

**All:** *We are chosen...  
Chosen to proclaim the wonderful work of God  
Who has called us out of darkness  
Into God's marvelous light.  
Once we were no people:  
Now we are God's People.  
Once we didn't know God's mercy:  
With open hearts we wait for God's love and mercy to be fulfilled!  
Amen.*

OPENING SONG (see insert) *The King Of Love My Shepherd Is* arr. M McClellan

RENEWING THE COVENANT

Voice One: Creator of every moment, Keeper of our every day,  
take us by the hand and lead us,  
as we trust you to walk with us on the journey of life.

Voice Two: Watcher of our nights and Answerer of our questions,  
sweep away the cobwebs of our minds,  
so we might discover anew the promises you bring to us,  
in the word you plant within us.

**All:** *Spirit of New Birth, Breath of New Life,  
be in the words we speak, and sing,  
and pray in this time of worship.  
Reshape us into the people of God  
created for worship and service.  
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

PASSING THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Response of the Faith Community:

*We, as a community, promise to care for Joseph, Brenna and  
Pyper by our actions and through our prayers. We will teach them  
the joys of God's world. We will love them and we are, by this  
affirmation, inseparably bound to them. We pray that we might  
fulfill our vows to each of you and to God.*

Prayer of the Faith Community:

*Almighty God, giver of life, you have called us by name and  
pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray for your  
children, Joseph, Brenna and Pyper. Watch over them as they  
grow. Give them understanding and a quick concern for  
neighbors. Help them to be true disciples of Jesus Christ. God of  
grace, we pray for Jason and Katie and for Toby and Jen. Help  
them to know you, to love with your love, to teach your truth, and  
to tell the story of Jesus to their children, so that they may hear  
your word and know your presence.*

*Remind us of the promises given in our own baptism, and renew  
our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve  
you with joy, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING John 3:1-17 CEV

There was a man named Nicodemus who was a Pharisee and a Jewish leader.  
One night he went to Jesus and said, "Sir, we know that God has sent you to  
teach us. You could not work these miracles, unless God were with you."

Jesus replied, "I tell you for certain that you must be born from above be-  
fore you can see God's kingdom!"

Nicodemus asked, "How can a grown man ever be born a second time?"  
Jesus answered:

I tell you for certain that before you can get into God's kingdom, you must  
be born not only by water, but by the Spirit. Humans give life to their children.  
Yet only God's Spirit can change you into a child of God. Don't be surprised  
when I say that you must be born from above. Only God's Spirit gives new life.  
The Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants to. You can hear the  
wind, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going.

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

Jesus replied:

How can you be a teacher of Israel and not know these things? I tell you for  
certain that we know what we are talking about because we have seen it our-  
selves. But none of you will accept what we say. If you don't believe when I talk  
to you about things on earth, how can you possibly believe if I talk to you  
about things in heaven?

No one has gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down  
from there. And the Son of Man must be lifted up, just as that metal snake was  
lifted up by Moses in the desert. Then everyone who has faith in the Son of  
Man will have eternal life. God loved the people of this world so much that he  
gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life

and never really die. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its  
people. He sent him to save them!

OFFERING OUR GIFTS BACK TO GOD

OFFERING SONG (see insert) *So The Love of God* Dan Schutte

DOXOLOGY

*We thank you God for all you have given.  
Now we return a portion to you -  
For all that we have, and all that we are,  
We bring our gifts, and thank you God for life.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SERMON *The Gospel of John—Love* Rev. Thomas D. York

FOCUS SONG (see insert) *You Are Mine* David Haas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us  
not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

CLOSING SONG (see insert) *Everlasting God* Brown/Riley

BLESSING THE PEOPLE

Sources for today's liturgy: Gathering - *David Sparks, Prayers to Share, Year  
A*; Renewing the Covenant - *Thom Shuman, Lectionary Worship Aids, Series  
VIII, Cycle A.*

The rosebuds today celebrate the birth and baptism of Joseph Jason  
Maney, born November 5, 2009, son of Jason and Katie Maney and the births  
and baptisms of Brenna Carol Merchant and Pyper Judith Merchant, both  
born on October 20, 2008, daughters of Toby and Jen Merchant.

If you feel called to serve God by researching, writing or speaking liturgy in  
future services, please feel free to talk with any of the worship leaders or drop  
a note in the offering plate.

Fresh Spirit Prayer Request cards and offering envelopes are available in the  
black fellowship pad folders. If you have a prayer request, concern or joy you  
wish to share, please fill out a card and place it in the offering bags. All  
concerns and joys are welcome!

Today's 11:00 am bulletin cover (see below) depicts Jesus and Nicodemus,  
found in a portion of the stain glass window from St. Joseph Catholic Church  
in Macon, Georgia.



