

Nobody Promised Love Would Be Easy!

Second Sunday in Lent

March 8th, 2020 Sunday Worship at 10:30am



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Gathering
Music to Prepare Us For Worship

Gathering Songs "Here I Am to Worship" & "Blind Man"

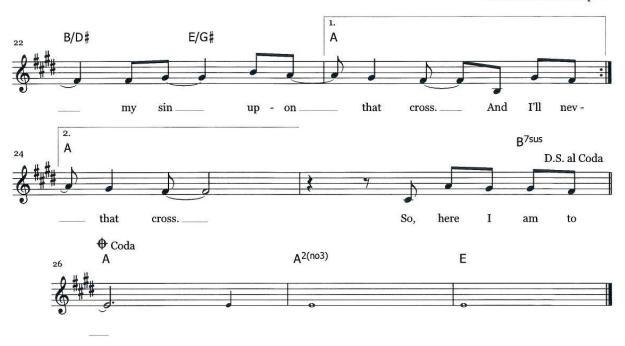
Here I Am To Worship

Words and Music by Tim Hughes



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Here I Am To Worship - 2



BLIND MAN

Author Unknown

Blind man sits by the road and he cries (3X)
He cries, "Oh, oh, oh, show me the way,
Show me the way, show me the way
The way to go home."

We all sit by the road and we cry (3X)
We cry, "Oh, oh, oh, show us the way,
Show us the way, show us the way
The way to go home."

Jesus stands by the road and he cries (3X)
He cries, "Oh, oh, oh, I am the way,
I am the truth, I am the life,
Follow me home."

Introduce the Theme with Kids

Welcome, River Source, Clipboards

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Jesus, our teacher, you saw the image of God in all those you met along the lake side, in the vineyards, and on the road. Give us eyes to see your face in all the people we meet. Equip us to meet them right where they are at in their journey. Amen

Meet Someone New

Worship Leader: We practice being Christians by extending our hand in friendship to people we may not know very well or at all. If we can't do it here, in worship, where else can we do it? Go ahead, make the first move.

"Blind Man" to bring people back together.

Greeting

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe that God meets you here. We gather in the name of God the eternal Creator – Jesus Christ, God's only Son and the Holy Spirit – who is with you always...

And also with you.

We are God's people, sheep of the Spirit's fold, lambs of Christ's flock, sinners of God's redeeming.

Amen.

Let us come before God, who already knows our hearts and welcomes our humility.

Silence for reflection.

Loving God,

Our thoughts, our words, and our deeds are an open book to you. You have seen where we fall short.

You know where we have strayed as individuals and as your church.

In your mercy, forgive us and guide us into right ways of being -

Ways of welcome, paths of mercy, habits of grace -

So that we may live renewed in the joy of our salvation, prepared, equipped, And ready to meet Christ in our neighbors and in your creation.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

God's ways are not our ways and God's thoughts are not our thoughts.

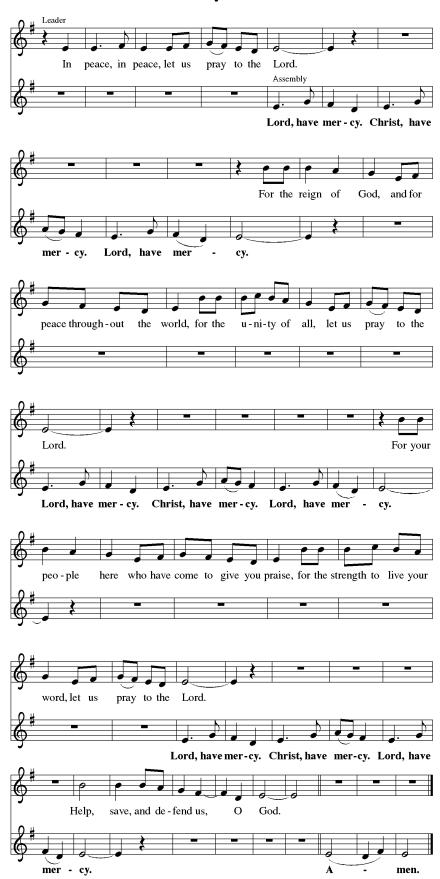
Before we were made, God brought creation out of nothing and peace out of chaos. In this same love, God unyokes you from sin and binds you to a new life and new living in Jesus Christ.

Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the kingdom of God!

Amen!

KYRIE ELEISON – "Lord, Have Mercy"

Kyrie



Prayer of the Day

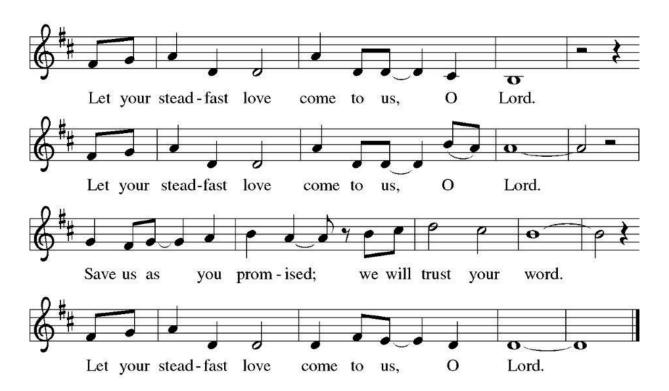
O Lord,

you know exactly what we need, even when we ourselves do not. Grant us the vision and strength to live as you have taught us, true disciples of Jesus, in whose name we pray, amen.

THE STORY

Narrator: Our story and God's story continues today, with a reading from

Mark 10: 32-52



Narrator: Back on the road, they set out for Jerusalem. Jesus had a head start on them, and they were following, puzzled and not just a little afraid. He took the Twelve and began again to go over what to expect next.

Side 1: "Listen to me carefully. We're on our way up to Jerusalem. When we get there, the Son of Man will be betrayed to the religious leaders and scholars. They will sentence him to death. Then they will hand him over to the Romans, who will mock and spit on him, give him the third degree, and kill him. After three days he will rise alive."

Side 2: James and John, Zebedee's sons, came up to him. "Teacher, we have something we want you to do for us." "What is it? I'll see what I can do." "Arrange it," they said, "so that we will be awarded the highest places of honor in your glory—one of us at your right, the other at your left."

Narrator: Jesus said, "You have no idea what you're asking. Are you capable of drinking the cup I drink, of being baptized in the baptism I'm about to be plunged into?"

Side 1: "Sure," they said. "Why not?" Jesus said, "Come to think of it, you will drink the cup I drink, and be baptized in my baptism. But as to awarding places of honor, that's not my business. There are other arrangements for that." When the other ten heard of this conversation, they lost their tempers with James and John.

Side 2: Jesus got them together to settle things down. "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around," he said, "and when people get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads. It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for many who are held hostage."

Narrator: They spent some time in Jericho. As Jesus was leaving town, trailed by his disciples and a parade of people, a blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, was sitting alongside the road.

Side 1: When he heard that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by, he began to cry out, "Son of David, Jesus! Mercy, have mercy on me!" Many tried to hush him up, but he yelled all the louder, "Son of David! Mercy, have mercy on me!"

Side 2: Jesus stopped in his tracks. "Call him over." They called him. "It's your lucky day! Get up! He's calling you to come!" Throwing off his coat, he was on his feet at once and came to Jesus.

Narrator: Jesus said, "What can I do for you?" The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "On your way," said Jesus. "Your faith has saved and healed you." In that very instant he recovered his sight and followed Jesus down the road.

Narrator: Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant



Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953 Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928 Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song, c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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Prayers of the People

During this time of stillness and contemplation, prayers will be written on chalkboards finishing the following prayer prompts:

"I struggle to love... Where do I need love... Who taught me to love..."

and then will be prayed out loud, anonymously.

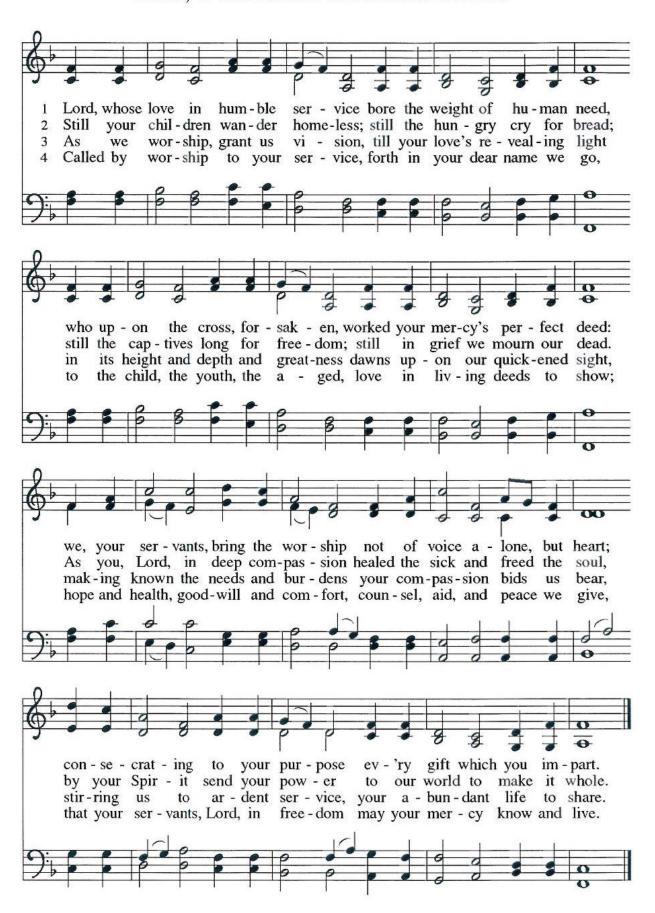
Reader: Hear us O God, All: Your mercy is great.

Offering

Worship Leader: We are grateful for your financial gifts; it's the only way churches are churches. Set up automatic giving by going to our website, riverofhopehutchinson.org click "give" & go from there.

Offering Song "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" Verse 1

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



THE FEAST

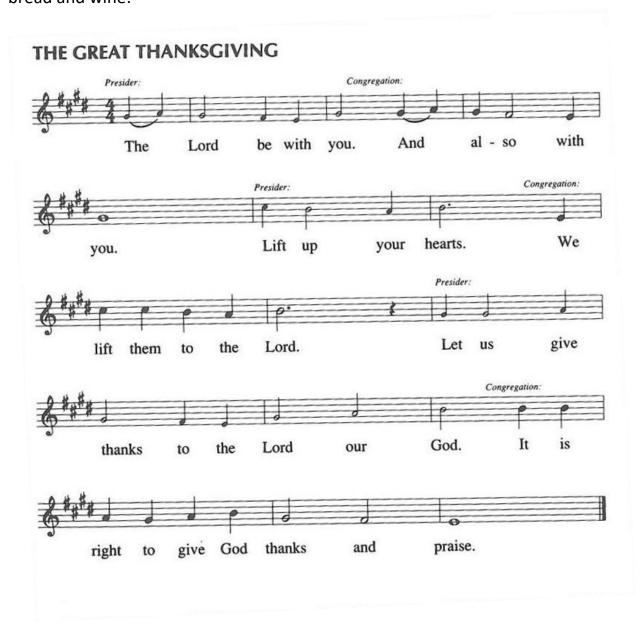
Setting the Table

As the kids help set the table, make a circle around the table and lead the congregation in the table prayer written by Martin Luther:

Let's pray: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Blest be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

This table is open for all to receive the grace, mercy and love that comes to us in this bread and wine:



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Easter feast, that, renewed in the gift of our baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

As we gather in this place, we remember, that in the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

You are invited to join hands with those around you in prayer. If you are not the hand-holding type, then simply fold your hands in front of you or hang onto this bulletin as you pray.

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.
Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever and forever. Amen.

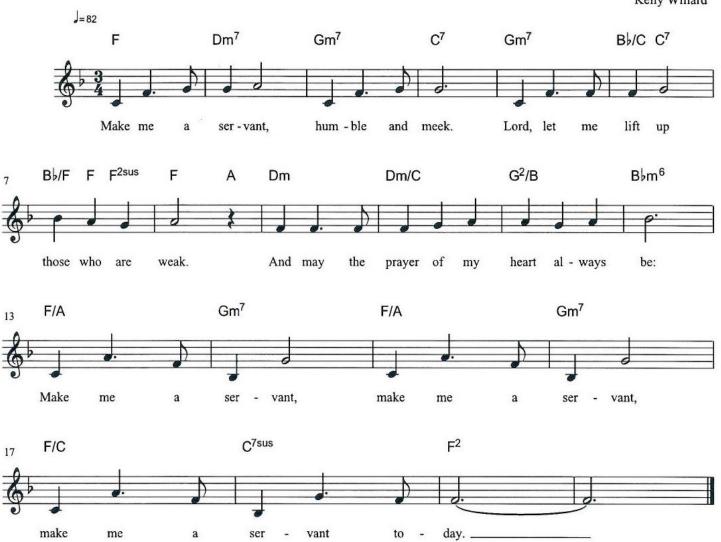
Invitation to the Meal

You are welcome to this meal. It is free and it is for you. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you.



Make Me A Servant

Words and Music by Kelly Willard



Blessing after Communion

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us out in the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may demonstrate your transforming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose? We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

(Please Be Seated)

Purpose Sightings

Worship Leader: There are many opportunities to serve God and our neighbor – this is the time to lift those up!

MILESTONES! "Lord Jesus, You Shall by my Song"

The congregation will sing before Milestones – Verse 1 only:

If you've got a good or hard milestone in your life and can share it in a few sentences, meet me at the baptismal font and throw a water drop in as you share your milestone.

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Jésus, je voudrais te chanter



Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931 Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community Text and music ©1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Final Blessing

Turn to your neighbor – or say to yourself:

Remember, you are treasured and loved – now, go out and share that love with everyone you meet – no exceptions!

Sending Song "Psalm 25"

Psalm 25

Author Unknown

To you, oh Lord I lift up my soul,
In you I trust, oh Lord.
To you, oh Lord I lift up my soul,
In you I trust, oh Lord.

You're higher than the mountains,
deeper than the sea.
Wider than the ocean
is your love for me.
You're with me on the mountain
and the valley below.

You are right here beside me everywhere that I go.

Go in peace – serve the Lord! Thanks be to God

Music to Send You Out

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