

First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org
Worship on Facebook Premiere
Sundays at 10:30am

Gathering

Music to Prepare Us for Worship

Gathering Songs - In The Cross of Christ I Glory & Love the Lord

Welcome

*Wherever you are on your journey of faith,
we believe God meets you right where you are, and you are welcome here.*

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Let us pray: **Gracious God, help us to see your image revealed in all of creation, especially in those whom we call stranger. Guide us as we seek to join you in journeying alongside all in need. Amen.**

Time with Kids

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

Dear Friends, Let us confess that God is God and we are not.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit
to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love.
Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,
the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are \ddagger forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.

Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

Only By Our Lonesome

Kyrie

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: **God of wisdom, You challenge us to expand our minds to your inclusive view of the world. Teach us to welcome the stranger whoever they may be, and to open ourselves to having our minds changed and our hearts transformed, for the sake of Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

The Story

Narrator: Our story and God's story continues with a reading from the gospel of Luke. (Luke 10:25-42)

25Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" 27He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." 28And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." 29But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. 31Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. 34He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and

took care of him. 35The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ 36Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ 37He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

38Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. 40But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” 41But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 42there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn – Jesu, Jesu Fill Us With Your Love

As we sing together, we know that God hears all our prayers, those spoken aloud and those carried in the quiet of our hearts. For those gathering on the Facebook Premiere, you are invited to write your prayers in the comment section on the right side of your screen. Wherever we are this day, God is with us, and God hears our prayers.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here,
Bigger than the sky and in the smallest details,
All at once and in every moment.
We believe that God meets us where we are—
In heartbreak and high hopes,
Around crowded tables and in quiet homes,
In joy and in suffering, In loneliness and in connection,
In sanctuaries and in living rooms, In marches and in waiting rooms.
We believe that nothing we do or leave undone
Can distance us from God’s love.
God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in.
Again and again, God meets us where we are
And invites us into wholeness.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

Prayers for the World

Together we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each petition will close with the words: God of Mercy
And you are invited to respond: **Hear our prayer**

Offering

This year we are supporting McLeod Alliance with our special lenten offering.
Since 1992, McLeod Alliance has provided free and confidential assistance to those affected by domestic violence in the McLeod County and surrounding areas.

Please consider giving directly to McLeod Alliance, either through mail (McLeod Alliance for Victims of Domestic Violence P.O. Box 393 Hutchinson, MN 55350) or by giving electronically on their website (<https://www.mcleodalliance.org/donate/>).

If you let the church office know of your contribution, we will include that information in our record as we seek the meet our goal of \$1,000.00 raised. Thank you for your continued generosity and for your partnership together in God's work for the world.

Offering Music - Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

The Feast

Setting the Table

As we prepare our tables with gifts of bread, wine/juice, the children lead us as we pray together: **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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord is with you
And also with you
Lift up your hearts!
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.
On the night in which he was betrayed...

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Meal

This is not my table or River of Hope's table, but rather this is Christ's table and all are welcome. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you. Bring all that you are and all that you have to the table. You will be fed. You are forgiven. There is enough.

"This is the body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you."

Communion Songs - Mess With Us

Blessing and Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. Compassionate God, **you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Sending

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

MILESTONE - Lord, Jesus You Shall Be My Song

It's time for sharing milestones - a time where we join together as a community to share the big, small, good, and hard milestones in our life. Splash in the water this morning and remember that God joins us in hearing these milestones today. If you gather with us on Facebook Premiere you are invited to share your milestones in the comment section.

Blessing

As you leave this space,
May our mouths speak of God's goodness.
May our arms hold those in need.
May our feet walk toward justice.
May our hearts trust their worth.
May our souls dance in God's grace.
And may this be our rhythm— Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.

In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. **Amen**

Sending Song - With All Your Heart

Go in peace – serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**



Music to Send You Out

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PRAAYER OF THE DAY liturgy adapted from ClergyStuff © 2020 and/or WorkingPreacher.org
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND BLESSING "Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A
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