

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 6, 2016

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Pastor

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP ... *from Romans 8:38-39*

Pastor: For I am convinced that neither death nor life,

People: Nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Pastor: Nor powers nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation—

People: Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor: There is nothing we can do, no place we can hide, where God will forget us.

People: God loves us, God forgives us, God calls us by name.

All: Let us worship our God who seeks us, finds us, and loves us! Amen.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP... “God Is So Good” ... p. 23 Congregation

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ... *2 Corinthians 5:16-21* Alisa Beard

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view¹we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

HYMN ... “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” ... vs. 1 and 2 54

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Brandi Powers

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rebecca Blake

Response: Hear the Good News, in the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

MORNING PRAYER..... Pastor

OFFERTORY HYMN... “Love Lifted Me” ...vs. 1 and 2 546

OFFERTORY PRAYER..... Usher

OFFERTORY

GOSPEL LESSON ... *Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*..... Reggie Jackson

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of

them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with¹ the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

ANTHEM ... “Lead Me Back” Choir

SERMON ... *Becoming the Father*..... Pastor

CLOSING HYMN ... “Open My Eyes, That I May See” ... vs. 1 and 3 502

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY

4:00 p.m. Meeting for Children and Parents

4:30 p.m. Meeting for Youth and Parents

5:30 p.m. Choir Practice

WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. COVERED DISH

6:45 p.m. Lenten Study

