

9:00 a.m.

Early Service

March 11, 2018

Entering God's Presence

***Here I Am 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.

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

So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me!

*Expressing Our Confidence in God's Grace

The Rev. Vance E. Polley

Leader: Great God, in Christ you call our name

People: and then receive us as your own,

Leader: not through some merit, right or claim,

People: but by your gracious love alone.

Leader: Great God, in Christ you set us free

People: your life to live, your joy to share.

Leader: Give us your Spirit's liberty

People: to turn from guilt and dull despair

Leader: and offer all that faith can do

People: while love is making all things new. (Verse by Brian Wren)

*Song 42 (Green Songbook)

We Bow Down

Twila Paris

Invitation to Self-Examination and Confession of our Need for God's Forgiveness (unison)

Merciful God, we give you thanks, for you created us to live together in love and freedom with you, with one another, and with the world. You made us in your image and endowed us with gifts of reason, imagination, and will. We have been created in order that your goodness might be reflected in our lives, but we have fallen short of your glory. Though we live with neighbors, we have ceased to live for them. Though we live with you, we have ceased to live for you. Our hearts have been, too often, set on ourselves and not on you or others. Lord, have mercy on us and forgive our selfish ways.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

Lenten Wreath ***What Wondrous Love Is This*** (Blue Hymnal 85, v. 1) WONDROUS LOVE
(Four candles on the Lenten Wreath is extinguished for the Fourth Sunday in Lent)

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Life in the Community

*Hymn 78 (Blue Hymnal)

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

MARTYDOM

Luke 9:21-23 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 65 in the pew Bible.]

Mark 15:16-24 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 50 in the pew Bible.]

Sermon

God's Redeeming Love: Simon of Cyrene

Reece H. Smith

Dedicating Our Lives, Gifts, and Tithes

(You are invited to bring your offering to God forward and place it on the Communion Table at the front of the sanctuary. You may come down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles.)

Offertory

*Song 219 (Green Songbook)

We Give You Thanks (Sing twice)

LOCKWARD

We give you thanks. We give you praise.

For you are kind, you are love, you are God!

We give you thanks.

*Prayer of Dedication, concluding with the *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, forever. Amen.

*Hymn 84 (Blue Hymnal)

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN

*Blessing

*Going Out into the World

*All those that are able, please stand.