

**February 28, 2021**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**PRELUDES**

*The Prayer Perfect*  
*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

Robert W. Thygerson  
Johann Gottfried Walther

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SENTENCES (from Psalm 91)**

L: You who live in the shelter of the Most High,

**P: Who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,**

L: Will say to the Lord, “my refuge and my fortress;

**P: My God in whom I trust.”**

**WELCOMING SONG #686**

*God of Our Life*

Sandon

(verse one)

God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in thee.

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.

With each new day, when morning lifts the veil, we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

(verse two)

God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us abide.

Lead us by faith to hope’s true promised land. Be thou our guide.

With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light, and faith’s fair vision changes into sight.

(verse three)

God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow thee.

When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone. Our refuge be.

Be thou for us in life our daily bread, our heart’s true home when all our years have sped.

Text by Hugh T. Kerr

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**CALL TO CONFESSION (from Psalm 103:8)**

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of great mercy, we confess that we have strayed from your way. We see ourselves as great when we are small, pure when we are stained. We have failed to love others, neglected the call to justice, and ignored your wisdom. Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to the paths of righteousness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Isaiah 55:3))**

L: “Listen, so that you may live: the steadfast love of the Lord never fails.” In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**SONG OF RESPONSE #442** *Just As I Am, without One Plea*

Woodworth

(verse three)

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Gracious and merciful God, speak to us in the word read and proclaimed so that – in the shelter of your love – we may find the courage to face the parched places of our lives and drink from your spring of living water. AMEN.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 122**

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!” <sup>2</sup>Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together. <sup>4</sup>To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David. <sup>6</sup>Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. <sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.” <sup>8</sup>For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.” <sup>9</sup>For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*God of Grace with Amazing Grace*

Getty

*Sung by: Women of Valley*

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 13:1-9**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” <sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

**SERMON**

*“Looking for Fruit”*

Rev. John Wahl

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*Meditation on Mendon*

David Paxton

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SENDING SONG #691**

***Lord, When I Came into This Life***

Land of Rest

(verse one)

Lord, when I came into this life you called me by my name;  
today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim.

(verse two)

Within the circle of the faith, as member of your cast,  
I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past.

(verse three)

In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt,  
let your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.

(verse four)

So help me in my unbelief and let my life be true:  
Feet firmly planted on the earth, my sights set high on you.

Text by Fred Kaan

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**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

***Fugue in A Minor***

Johann Pachelbel