

**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**March 7, 2021**  
**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church**  
**Brooklyn Center, MN**

*This Lenten season, we're using Holden Evening Prayer, a worship music setting that blends traditional and contemporary styles together in a contemplative liturgy. Please join us in singing!*

*Today, the first Sunday of the month, Cross of Glory celebrates Holy Communion. Even while we're physically separated, we trust that God draws us together as one body. Please collect bread (or a cracker) and wine (or grape juice) as we prepare to take part in this holy meal together.*

**PRELUDE**

**GREETING**

Welcome to worship at Cross of Glory! We're glad you're with us, however it is that you're worshipping with us today. This week, as we continue to explore the Lenten theme of separation, we're focusing on the ways that we separate ourselves from creation. In a few minutes, we'll be reading a passage from Jeremiah, words that God spoke to the Israelites who had been plucked up from their homeland and exiled to the land of their enemies in Babylon. As we gather today, I share what I'm calling a reinterpretation of Jeremiah 29, an adapted poem by farmer and writer Wendell Berry.

Make a home.

Make a community.

Be loyal to what you have made.

Put the interest of the community first.

As far as you are able, make your lives independent of industrial production, which thrives by damage, and dependent upon your local place, neighborhood, and home, which thrives by care and generosity.

Enjoy your work. Work well.

Love your neighbors – not the neighbors you pick out, but the ones you have.

Love this miraculous earth that we did not make, but which is a gift to us.

*-Wendell Berry, Commencement Address to the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine, 1989*

As we begin our worship together, may these words remind us of the work—and the gift—of being part of God's good creation.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the giver of life, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

Let us take a moment of silence to confess our sin and return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence for reflection.*

Merciful God, **we have rejected your gift of life in order to be our own gods, clinging to death-dealing idols of our own making. We have distanced ourselves from those who are different. We have turned away from the groans of creation and the cries of our neighbors in need. Mend what we have broken. Join together what we have torn apart. And make us alive to your love, that we may experience and share the life you offer us now.**

Beloved, nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God. So hear this good news: in the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are ✠ forgiven. Live now in the freedom of forgiveness and in the joy of life together. Amen.

## **OPENING SONG**

Joyous light of heavenly glory, loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story, shine on every land and race.  
Now as morning breaks around us, we shall raise our songs to you,  
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,  
in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,  
Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor, every dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.  
Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,  
loving spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

## **THANKSGIVING**

**Leader:** May God be with you all,

**All: And also with you.**

**L:** Let us sing our thanks to God,

**A: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**L:** Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day.  
May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are  
the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

**A: Amen**

## **PSALMODY**

*This song, drawing on the words of Psalm 144, begins in unison then breaks into two parts and is sung as a round. In our recorded worship service, there will be a leader for both parts. If you're last name begins with A-M, follow part I. If your last name begins with N-Z, follow part II.*

**Refrain** (begins in unison):

Let my prayer rise up as incense before you,  
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

*Part I & II sung in round:*

O God, I call to you, come to me now;  
hear my voice when I cry to you. *Refrain.*

Keep watch within me, God;  
deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright. *Refrain*

All praise to the God of all, Creator of life;  
all praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love. *Refrain*

***Silence for meditation***

## PRAYER

*Let us pray together . . .* **May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that together with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives. Amen.**

## READING: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

<sup>1</sup> These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

<sup>4</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup> Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. <sup>7</sup> But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. <sup>8</sup> For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, <sup>9</sup> for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup> Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup> I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## MUSIC      **All the Earth**      **Worship Team**

**1** Father into Your courts I will enter.  
Maker of heaven and earth  
I tremble in Your holy presence.  
Glory, glory in Your sanctuary,  
Splendor and majesty.  
Lord, before You  
All life adores You.

### **Chorus**

All the earth will declare  
That Your love is ev'rywhere.  
The fields will exalt, seas resound.  
Hear the trees' joyful cry  
Praising You and so will I.  
A new song I'll sing. Lord I will  
Glorify and bless Your holy name.

**2** Jesus, Lord of all life and salvation,  
Into Your presence we come.  
We worship You our precious Savior.  
Fill us, fill us with Your holy power.  
Set us aflame with Your love  
'Til nations all know Your glory.

Glorify and bless Your name (4X)  
Glorify and bless Your holy name.

## REFLECTION I      **Rev. Ali Tranvik**

It was 587 BC. The city of Jerusalem had been destroyed and the Israelites who had been living there were sent into exile in Babylon, the land of their greatest enemies. Every aspect of life as they knew it had suddenly changed—the Israelites were separated from their loved ones, their language, their places of worship, their culture and customs and communities. They separated from their land.

Throughout the Hebrew Bible, land figures centrally into the Israelites' sense of identity (Davis). They didn't know who they were apart from their land. Land also represents God's presence, the promise that God will provide, that God will remain with God's people (Gen 15). So to be dis-

placed, dis-located from their homeland was not only dis-orientating, it was devastating. It seemed God had abandoned them.

In today's text, God speaks to the Israelites through the words of the prophet Jeremiah. "A word from God at last!" they must have thought. "A plan to get us back to our land, back to things the way they were!" But God does not give the Israelites a way *out*, a great escape plan. God doesn't even really give them a way *through*, that is, a way to merely survive. Instead, God gives them a whole new way of living in the place they find themselves: "Plant gardens. Grow stuff. Eat together." Did you catch those verses? *Gardening* was God's ingenuous (and I'm sure very well received) advice! God's call to those who had been separated from their land was a call *back to the land*, back to the earth, back into the dirt.

God's call to the Israelites who wanted to separate themselves from the world in which they found themselves by either looking back to what they'd left behind or to whatever lay ahead (this act of separation is what we're naming as sin this Lenten season)...God's call was to dig in right where they are. To plant, to garden, to grow food and eat it. To have a big potluck—*together* with the Babylonians.

Needless to say, our situation is drastically different from that of the Israelites. But in a way, we might think about the past year of pandemic life as one of exile from familiar ground, from the land on which we typically gather to worship each Sunday morning. Our situation is indeed different from the Israelites, but perhaps we can consider what it means to "plant gardens" on *this* unfamiliar ground.

Maybe for you, this means planting a literal garden, as the Minnesota ground begins to thaw. Or maybe this call to plant is more metaphorical—planting a new relationship, a new spiritual practice, or engaging in a new conversation (about housing, homelessness, payday lending, etc.) in our city. For as Jeremiah says, it's in the city's welfare that we'll find our own welfare (29:7).

Whatever it is, keep your garden tools handy, because in the midst of exile, we're called to dig in.

#### **CROSS MEDITATION:** PowerPoint Cross Images from the Cross of Glory Family

*Throughout the season of Lent, you are invited to take part in a communal spiritual practice of paying attention to the crosses or cross shapes that appear in the sanctuaries of your home or work. Take a picture of the crosses you notice and email them to Pastor Ali. A few of these crosses will be shown during this time of prayerful reflection in our recorded worship service each week.*

#### **REFLECTION II** Rev. Ali Tranvik

"God love everything you love, and a mess of the stuff you don't," said Shug to Celie, two black women who are characters in Alice Walker's tragic but beautiful book (we might call it a Lenten book) *The Color Purple*. "But more than anything else," Shug continues, "God love admiration." "You saying God vain?" Celie asks. "Naw," Shug said. "Not vain, just wanting to share a good thing. I think [God gets mad] if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it." I don't know about you, but I've never praised God for the color purple (or any color for that matter). But Shug suggests that this kind of attentiveness, this kind of gratitude, this kind of wonder is what it means to love God and the earth that God made (which is the first manifestation of God's love).

This posture toward creation runs counter to the one that has become default for many human beings, myself included. It is a posture of not of wonder but of plunder. One that sees humanity not as an interdependent part of creation but as independent masters *over* it. One that sees creation not as a gift to be enjoyed and shared, but as a commodity to capitalize on and consume. Wendell Berry, who I quoted at the beginning of the service, writes, "We all live by robbing nature, but our current standard of living demands that the robbery shall continue." This "robbery," as Berry calls it, does harm not only to the earth (though that is certainly true too, evidenced by rising seas and polluted air and trash-filled seas), but it does harm to *us* too. Such is the nature of sin. For we depend on creation for life. Dirt, as I said a couple of weeks ago, may be the place where our bodies go when we die but dirt is the source of *life*! As a result of our

attempt to be masters over creation, we have separated ourselves from it, and this sin has cut us off from life.

What would it look like to honor and care for that life as people of faith? How do we develop a posture of wonder (instead of plunder) toward the creation that we are intimately entangled with? In her beautiful book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, indigenous writer Robin Kimmerer brings us back to Jeremiah 29. "Plant a garden," she says. "It's good for the health of the earth and for the health of people. A garden is a nursery for nurturing connection, the soil for the cultivation of practical reverence. And its power goes far beyond the garden gate—once you develop a relationship with a little patch of earth, it becomes a seed itself."

"Something essential happens in a vegetable garden," Kimmerer writes. "It's a place where if you can't say 'I love you' out loud, you can say it in seeds. And the earth will reciprocate, in beans." And in trees that give air, in wheat that gives bread, in soil that gives life. And in the color purple.

**Sources:**

- Berry, Wendell. *What Are People For?* (Berkeley: Counterpoint, 2010).
- Davis, Ellen. *Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009).
- Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* (Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 2013).
- Soelle, Dorothee. *To Work and to Love: A Theology of Creation* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984).
- Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple* (New York: Simon and Schuster Inc., 1982).
- Wirzba, Norman. *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

**MUSIC            Indescribable            Worship Team**

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea  
Creation's revealing Your majesty.  
From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring  
Every creature unique in the song that it sings,  
All exclaiming:

Indescribable, uncontainable,  
You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.  
You are amazing God.  
All powerful, untamable,  
Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim  
You are amazing God.

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go  
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow?  
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light  
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?  
None can fathom.

Indescribable, uncontainable,  
You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name  
You are amazing God  
Incomp'able, unchangeable,  
You see the depths of my heart and You love me the same.  
You are amazing God.  
You are amazing, God.

Indescribable, uncontainable,  
You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.  
You are amazing God  
All powerful, untamable,  
Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim  
You are amazing God.

Incomp'able, unchangeable,  
You see the depths of my heart  
and You love me the same.  
You are amazing God.  
You are amazing God.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH          Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE ANNUNCIATION + MAGNIFICAT

**Leader:** And angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God most high." And Mary said, "I am a servant of my God, I live to do your will."

**All:** My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here,  
and blessed me all my life through.  
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,  
strong is your kindness evermore.  
How you favor the weak and lowly one,  
humbling the proud of heart.  
You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,  
and uplifted the humble of heart,  
you have filled the hungry with wondrous things,  
and left the wealthy no part.  
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,  
strong is your justice, strong your love,  
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.  
My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here,  
and blessed me all my life through.

## PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

**Refrain** (*sung by all after each verse*): **God of mercy, hold us in love.**

**Leader:**

1. In peace, in peace we pray to you.
2. For peace and salvation, we pray to you.
3. For peace between nations, peace between peoples.
4. For we who are gathered to worship and praise you.
5. For all of your servants who live out your gospel.
6. For all those who govern that justice might guide them.
7. For all those who labor in service to others.
8. Grant weather that nourishes all of creation.
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger.
- 10: For all the beloved who rest in your mercy.

Leader: Help us, comfort us, all of our days:

**All: Keep us, hold us, gracious God.**

L: Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live you Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be 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 our thanks and praise.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Lord, remember us in your love, and teach us to 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; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ is given for you. The blood of Christ is shed for you.

*You are invited to partake in Holy Communion at home with bread and wine/juice, trusting that God is present in it, and that we are present to one another.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Christ Jesus, at this table we are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this feast nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and extend this table hospitality to all who are hungry. **Amen.**

## **FINAL BLESSING**

**Leader:** Let us bless our God.

**All: Praise and thanks to you.**

**L:** May God, Creator, bless us and keep us, may Christ be ever light for our lives, may the Spirit of love be our guide and path, for all of our days.

**A: Amen.**

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

## **POSTLUDE**

### **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

Lead Pastor: Rev. Ali Tranvik

Pianist, vocalist, worship team director: Mark Trease

Vocalist, choir director: Keith Williams

Cantor: Kris Simon

Vocalist/Percussion: Erik Haugland

Lector: Bruce Vukelich

Technical directors: Ryan Bailey and Mike Edstrom

Ministers: The people of Cross of Glory

## MUSIC CREDITS:

Holden Evening Prayer: Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

## WEEKLY PRAYER LIST:

Given our Prayers of the People are sung this season as part of the Holden liturgy, we will be printing the names of those requesting prayer each week throughout Lent. Please keep these sisters and brothers in prayer, and email the church office if you'd like to add any names: Mavis Wold, Gil Hartlage, Vicky Jacobson, Jeannie Kuzmich, Laura McClanahan, Bill Bailey as he undergoes meningioma surgery this week, Trevor, relative of Cheryl and Gail Anderson, Eva, daughter and of Kim Jacobson, the Roth Family, and the loved ones of Terry Stejskal as they grieve his recent death.

## OFFERING

*We invite you to make an offering by sending a check to the church or by visiting our secure online giving page which can be found at the bottom of our home page:*

*[www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us). Thanks for your generosity!*

### **Congregational Support as of 1/31/2021**

**Annual Budget: \$230,000.00**

**Year to Date Budgeted: \$19,533.37**

**Year to Date Received: \$26,450.72**

**Difference: \$6,917.35**

## Community Announcements:

- Refill on coffee and join us following Zoom worship for Virtual Coffee Hour, a weekly time of small-group fellowship. The Covid-19 Task Force will meet afterwards.
- Please see the included flyer for various ways you're invited to take part in our life together throughout the Lenten season, including midweek Lenten Prayer at from 12-12:15 pm on Wednesdays on Zoom, recordings of which are available on our website.
- Positive Covid-19 case rates in Hennepin County continue to decrease; however, they are still high enough that Cross of Glory remains at Level 2 of our Preparedness & Response Plan. This means indoor groups of 10 or fewer people are welcome to gather on-site assuming all Building Entry Policy guidelines are maintained. Please schedule gatherings ahead of time by calling the church office. Worship services will continue to be virtual under this level. For more information, please consult Cross of Glory's Covid-19 Plan on our website or reach out to the Task Force.
- From 3/1-4/11, MN FoodShare will provide a proportional match for every pound of food and dollar donated to CEAP, our community's emergency assistance program. To make a special offering to CEAP, mark "CEAP" on your monthly offering envelope or send the church a check with "CEAP" on the memo line.
- Justice for All invites you to take part in a community conversation about payday lending this Sat 3/6 from 10-11:30 am. The panel conversation is open to Wildfire churches and other neighbors who may be interested in organizing against predatory lending practices in the West Metro Area. Email Mike ([mikemc5751@outlook.com](mailto:mikemc5751@outlook.com)) for more info about how to sign up.
- Please reach out to Pastor Ali with any other announcements or pastoral care concerns by email ([atranvik@crossofglory.us](mailto:atranvik@crossofglory.us)) or phone (763-533-8602).