

Sunday, March 21st

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements



Call to Worship

Leader: From water to wilderness:

People: God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

Leader: On stone and in hearts:

People: God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

Leader: From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

People: God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

Leader: We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

People: for where he is, we would be also.

Hymn # 209 – My Song is Love Unknown

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

He came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow; the world that was his own would not its Savior know. But O my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes we strew his way, and his sweet praises sing, resounding all the day hosannas to our King. Then "Crucify!" is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.

Unheeding, we will have our dear Lord made away, a murderer to save, the prince of life to slay. Yet steadfast he to suffering goes, that he his foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine: never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Through the season of Lent, O God, we have prayed for clean hearts and right spirits. Forgive us, O Lord, if we have prayed with our words but failed to pray with our actions. Forgive us of what we have done that has contributed to the suffering of another, and forgive us of what we have failed to do that could have lightened a neighbor's burden. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy. Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Special Music

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Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Return from Exile

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn # 692 – Spirit, Open My Heart

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart. God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart. Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story. In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart. May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

Prayers of the People

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.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response: Hymn # 205 – Live in Charity (x2)

*Live in charity and steadfast love.
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.*

Postlude

My Song Is Love Unknown 209

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from heav - en's throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way, and his sweet prais - es
 4 Un - heed - ing, we will have our dear Lord made a -
 5 Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so di -

me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior
 sing, re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to
 vine: nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like

be. O who am I that for my sake my
 know. But O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and
 slay. Yet stead - fast he to suf - fering goes, that
 thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I

Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
 at my need his life did spend!
 for his death we thirst and cry.
 he his foes from thence might free.
 all my days could glad - ly spend.

The opening line here could equally well have been a courtier's lament for a secret affair, but it soon becomes a path into a vivid and poignant reflection on Christ's Passion. This 17th-century text is beautifully embraced by its sensitive and lyrical 20th-century tune.

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

692 Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
 F B^b F B^b C7

Refrain



Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)
 Dm F/C B^b C7 Dm F/C Gm



liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
 F B^b Gm7 F B^b F



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

(D) (G) (D) (G)
 F B^b F B^b



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's

2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my

3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)
 C7 Dm F/C B^b C7



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and

goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and

sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)
 Dm Gm7 F B^b2 B^b



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.

deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.

Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

to Refrain

The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.