



Order of Worship March 14, 2021

Welcome

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Greeting

Anna Eckert

Before we were born,
Before we took our first breath,
Before the week started,
Before the year started,
Before we said, "I love you,"
Before we said, "I'm sorry,"
Before we figured out who we really are,
Before we figured out who we want to be,
Before it all—
God loved us.
Unconditionally and freely,
Fully and honestly—
God loved us.
Again and again, this is where our story begins.
Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

see song sheet

Confession and Pardon

Susan White

Family of faith,
It grieves us that we mess up and make mistakes all the time.
However, Scripture tells us that God is “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”
God is constantly saying to us, “Yes, I still love you. I will always love you.”
So let us pray to the God of love, trusting that God loved us first.

God of love,
We forget the beginning of the story—
That we were made from love, to be love, to give love.
Instead of rooting our narrative in the goodness refrain of creation,
We skip ahead and find our worth at the fall,
With Cain and Abel, lost in the wilderness.
We forget that first there was you, and you are love.
We forget that out of that love you created us.
We forget that from the very first day, you loved first.
We forget, because a love like that doesn't make sense to us.
Forgive our low self-esteem.
Forgive our resistance to love ourselves.
Forgive our hesitation to trust that even we could be made good.
And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on—from generation to generation.
Write a new beginning for us that roots our confidence in your unrelenting love.
With hope we pray, again and again. Amen.

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Family of faith, no matter what we do, where we go, or what we tell ourselves—
God is love, and God is loving us.

**All: Again and again, we are claimed, held, forgiven, and cared for.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—thanks be to God.
Amen!**

“And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Sermon

Again & Again:

God Loves First

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Handbell Anthem

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Wesley Ringers; Ellsie Seward, violin

Offering Prayer

Fran Underwood

Loving God,
you are never far from us, you are as close as our breathing.
We recognize you as the one who heals the wounded spirit
and gives new life to the broken hearted.
We offer these gifts to You, O God,
as a sign of our commitment to Your grace and authority.
Take us and use us and all that we have,
so that the Kingdom of Heaven will be realized on earth;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem

Ubi Caritas

Johnson

Youth Choir

Prayer

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Hymn

Your Grace Is Enough

Mike Bannach, Lisa Gibbs-Smith, Rusty Smith

Benediction

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Postlude

Intro and Final Fugue from “Fantasy in F Minor”, K. 608

Mozart

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Bulletin Production: Tanya Sabin

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Worship Material taken from the Again & Again Lenten Series

A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

- Liturgy and prayers by Rev. Sarah Are*
- Scripture commentary resource by Rev. T. Denise Anderson*
- Sermon Guide by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity*
- Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman*

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick W. Faber, 1854

IN BABILONE: 8. 7. 8. 7. D.
Traditional Dutch melody

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas-ures of man's mind;

There's a kind-ness in His jus-tice, Which is more than lib-er-ty.
And the heart of the E-ter-nal Is most won-der-ful-ly kind.

There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
If our love were but more sim-ple, We should take Him at His word;

There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord. A-MEN.

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GOD: HIS LOVE AND FATHERHOOD