

UMCA LENT WORSHIP
Love Is the Way
Week 2: To Dream and to Build
Sunday, February 28, 2021

COUNTDOWN

OPENING SEQUENCE

OPENING VERSE - Jeremiah 31:2-3 (Nancy Jo)

The Lord proclaims:

The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness.

As Israel searched for a place of rest, the Lord appeared to them from a distance:

I have loved you with a love that lasts forever.

And so with unfailing love, I have drawn you to myself.

OPENING PRAYER W/ CANDLES (Sally)

INTRO: Rachael will record this part.

Each day during Lent, we are invited to pray for one another and hold one another in loving community, even as we remain distant. On Sundays, we will light candles and share these prayers together. Use whatever candles you have available to you. I invite you to pause and light your candles now, to pray together and then continue your silent prayer during the prelude music. At the end of the prelude, extinguish your candles.

Holy God, as we pray for others, help us to love them more. Help us to see ourselves and one another through the lens of your great love. Place within us an overwhelming desire to live in ways that bring our world closer to becoming your beloved community.

This week, we pray especially for:

- People who often say the wrong thing
- People who deliver tough messages
- People who have skills we admire
- People we need to forgive
- People who share their love of the outdoors
- People who have transformed their sadness
- People who have vastly different beliefs

We remember these people with love. We remember, God, that your love is for everyone.
Amen.

PRELUDE (with offering info on the screen)

Excerpt from LOVE IS THE WAY (Cassidy)

In the Bible, as today, the language of the dream becomes most essential at midnight, when things are darkest. Change starts with a positive vision. Dreamers understand that we need to change the world with love, not hate. (p. 86)

HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Charles Wesley (1747); TUNE: BEECHER*

Love Divine, all loves excelling
Joy of heaven to earth come down
Fix in us thy humble dwelling
All thy faithful mercies crown

Jesus, thou art all compassion
Pure unbounded love thou art
Visit us with thy salvation
Enter every trembling heart

Come, Almighty to deliver
Let us all thy life receive
Suddenly return and never
Never more thy temples leave

Thee we would be always blessing
Serve thee as thy hosts above
Pray and praise thee without ceasing
Glory in thy perfect love

FIRST READING (Laurie)

Genesis 17:1-7

When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am El Shaddai. Walk with me and be trustworthy. I will make a covenant between us and I will give you many, many descendants." Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, "But me, my covenant is with you; you will be the ancestor of many nations. And because I have made you the ancestor of many nations, your name will no longer be Abram[b] but Abraham. I will make you very fertile. I will produce nations from you, and kings will come from you. I will set up my covenant with you and your descendants after you in every generation as an enduring covenant. I will be your God and your descendants' God after you.

SECOND READING (Rosalie)

Mark 8:31-38

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father's glory with the holy angels."

ANTHEM

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Men's Quartet

by Hale, Manna Music Inc, 1962

SERMON

Rev. Rachael Warner

PASTORAL PRAYER - LAURA

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SONG - BRIAN SCHROEDER

Build My Life

CCLI #7070345 | Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kable, Matt Redman, and Pat Barrett

Worthy of every song
we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise
we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath
we could ever breathe
We live for You

Jesus the name above
every other name

Jesus the only one
who could ever save
Worthy of every breath
we could ever breathe
We live for You

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder
Show me who You are and
Fill me with Your heart and
Lead me in Your love
to those around me

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

BENEDICTION - RACHAEL

POSTLUDE