

**UMCA LENT WORSHIP**  
**Love Is the Way**  
**Week 4: What Love Reveals**  
**Sunday, March 14, 2021**

**COUNTDOWN**

**OPENING SEQUENCE**

**OPENING VERSE - 1 John 4:7**

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God.

**OPENING PRAYER W/ CANDLES**

*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 whom we no longer consider a friend
- People who share their gift of music
- People who are community leaders
- People who are incarcerated
- People who demonstrate humility
- People in our faith community
- People who encourage us with their words

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**

*None of us can be perfect. Accepting that is a great opening to letting God be God in our lives. As that happens, though change still requires grace and sheer grit, hard-won breakthroughs and pushing back, somehow the spirit of God's love breathes through us, constantly making us new. (p.173)*

## **FIRST READING**

Numbers 21:4-9

[The Israelites] marched from Mount Hor on the Reed Sea road around the land of Edom. The people became impatient on the road. The people spoke against God and Moses: "Why did you bring us up from Egypt to kill us in the desert, where there is no food or water. And we detest this miserable bread!" So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people and they bit the people. Many of the Israelites died.

The people went to Moses and said, "We've sinned, for we spoke against the Lord and you. Pray to the Lord so that he will send the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

The Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous snake and place it on a pole. Whoever is bitten can look at it and live." Moses made a bronze snake and placed it on a pole. If a snake bit someone, that person could look at the bronze snake and live.

## **SECOND READING**

John 3:14-21

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life.

God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son.

"This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."

## **HYMN - Behold a Broken World**

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1985)

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TUNE: CAROL

Behold a broken world, we pray  
Where want and war increase  
And grant us, Lord, in this our day  
The ancient dream of peace  
A dream of swords to sickles bent

Of spears to scythe and spade  
The weapons of our warfare spent  
A world of peace remade

**SERMON**

Rev. Rachael Warner

**ANTHEM**

*TBD*

**PASTORAL PRAYER - LAURA**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**SONG - BRIAN SCHROEDER**

*The Earth Is Yours*

Michael Gungor

Your voice it thunders  
The oaks start twisting  
The forest sounds with cedars breaking

The waters see You  
And start their writhing  
From the depths a song is rising

Now, it's rising from the ground  
Now, it's rising from the ground

Holy holy holy holy Lord  
The earth is Yours and singing  
Holy holy holy holy Lord  
The earth is Yours  
The earth is Yours

Your voice it thunders  
The ground is shaking  
The mighty mountains now are trembling

Creation sees You  
And starts composing  
The fields and trees they start rejoicing

Now, it's rising from the ground

Now, it's rising from the ground  
Hear us crying out, hear us crying out

Holy holy holy holy Lord  
The earth is Yours and singing  
Holy holy holy holy Lord  
The earth is Yours  
Holy holy holy holy Lord  
The earth is Yours and singing  
Holy holy holy holy Lord  
The earth is Yours

**BENEDICTION - RACHAEL**

**POSTLUDE**