

# Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church - ELCA

## Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021



### **Again & Again, We are Created for Community: A Midweek Lenten Series**

**The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together “with the whole church.” It goes on to state that “we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.”**

**Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of “repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love,” Lent is also a time for deepening of community.**

**During this pandemic, our hearts have yearned for a deeper community that extends beyond the walls of the church and into our homes and hearts. Using readings from Mark’s gospel, this series invites the assembly to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God.**

**MIDWEEK 1 - In Community with creation**

#### **Call To Worship**

**L: God meets us in the night— C: Before the sun rises, Before the wound heals, Before there are answers, Before there is closure.**

**L: God meets us in the light— C: Where joy is effervescent, Where laughter is contagious, Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, And where people gather around the table.**

**L: God meets us at the threshold— C: At the edge of the water, At the beginning of the wilderness, At the start of something new, On the edge of faith.**

L: And if God meets us in all those places, Then surely God meets us in between—

**C: Staying with us through the wilderness.**

L: We are not alone. God is all around. **C: Let us worship the God of the here and now.**

### **Gathering Hymn**

### *Borning Cry*

### **Verse 1**

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold. I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell. I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

### **Prayer of illumination**

L: Holy God, **C: If I am honest, faith often feels like water in my hands. No matter how hard I try to hold onto it, some of it always slips through— Like droplets of truth running down my wrists, back toward my heart. This human inability to hold onto you leaves me thirsty for more. So as we prepare to read scripture, I pray that once again, you would meet us here. Meet us in our hope and our heartache. Meet us in our fear and our joy, Meet us in our cupped hands and clenched fists. And even if the water keeps running, And we do not have a sky-parting moment of clarity, Or a tangible sense that you are near; Even if we do not hear the words, "This is my beloved," Ringing in our ears, We will trust that you are near, Always and forever meeting us here, Running toward our hearts. Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

### **Scripture:**

**Genesis 9:8-17** - <sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup> God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

**Mark 4:35-41** - <sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup> A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup> But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup> He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup> And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Message

## Hymn of The Day

*Borning Cry*

**Verse 2**

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun. I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

## Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here, Bigger than the sky and in the smallest details, All at once and in every moment. We believe that God meets us where we are— In heartbreak and high hopes, Around crowded tables and in quiet homes, In joy and in suffering, In loneliness and in connection, In sanctuaries and in living rooms, In marches and in waiting rooms. We believe that nothing we do or leave undone Can distance us from God's love. God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in. Again and again, God meets us where we are And invites us into wholeness. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Prayers

Offering

## 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 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

## Benediction

As you leave this space, May your mouth speak of God's goodness. May your arms hold those in need. May your feet walk toward justice. May your heart trust its worth. May your soul dance in God's grace. And may this be your rhythm— Again and again and again, Until God's promised day. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself, Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. **Amen**

## Sending Hymn

*Borning Cry*

**Verse 3**

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun. When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise. I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

## Dismissal

Go in peace, joined together in Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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