

Celebrating Black History Month **"Amazing Grace"** **Wintley Phipps**

Words of Welcome | ***Passing of the Peace** **Rev. Ann Hayman**

Call to Worship (Psalm 147: 1-11 paraphrased by Jim Taylor) **Matt Falaye Gwin**

Sometimes we think of God as the "Sugar daddy," the one who can solve all our problems for us.

We are the refugees. Our homes and our spirits have been destroyed.

Across the earth we have fled seeking asylum.

God gathered us together and gave us a second chance.

We are the sick, the infirm, the elderly. God gave us nurses, and medicines, and Medicare to cover the costs that would have crushed us.

We are the students, the scientists, the scholars. The more we explore our universe, the more the mysteries we encounter fill us with awe.

We are the poor, the oppressed, the people at the bottom of the pile. We see the powerful and mighty come tumbling down, betrayed by their own corruption.

When we see all this, we do not doubt the power of God.

Why should we doubt? If God can make the rain fall, the grass grow, the rivers run, and the sun shine, if God can balance the needs of nature so that both lion and lamb can live, then surely God can also affect human affairs.

God does not judge by appearances. God is not impressed by titles and positions, nor influenced by body-building and cosmetic beauty. In the eyes of God, a pauper matters as much as a priest, a person on welfare as much as a president.

What matters is how well we hear God, and how much we care for each other.

(From: *Everyday Psalms*, Wood Lake Books. www.woodlakebooks.com)

***Opening Hymn** **"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"** **PH #404**
Hense Powell

Call to Confession **Matt Falaye Gwin**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God unlimited, God self-limited, God extending our limits, surely you do not expect us to accept suffering without complaint! We are frustrated with illnesses like Covid that rage on, keeping us from doing the things that bring us satisfaction and recognition. Long nights and months of futility seem such a waste to us. Too often we question why it should happen to us, thinking ourselves to be better than others. We forget the exposure of your Son Jesus, to all the circumstances of our mortality. We ignore the spiritual growth that could be ours to prepare us to minister to other sufferers.

Forgive our resistance to the healing of spirit and body that your Spirit can enable through our faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Matt Falaye Gwin

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! In the Spirit Jesus still comes, healing those who suffer from various diseases and freeing many who are captives of evil.

People: In the Spirit Jesus still comes bringing healing and freedom.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Leader: Bear your part in spreading the good news, whether in illness or health, weakness or strength, in the service of God.

Time with Children “What Do We Do with Our Hands?” Rev. Ann Hayman

Moment for Mission Habitat for Humanity Erica Blyther & Jill Blyther-Tate

Anthem “Deep River” Dr. Hansonia Caldwell-Harriford

Prayer for Illumination Matt Falaye Gwin

Scripture Isaiah 4:27-31 Matt Falaye Gwin

**Sermon “The Hazards of Compassion” Rev. Ann Hayman
Mark 1: 29-39**

Words of Faith (Unison)

In faith, we acknowledge that God has acted in the past, in a holy history.

In faith, we confess that God seeks to rule our lives today.

In faith, we affirm that God continues to send prophets and speak through willing vessels to guide the course of all history toward its end.

In faith, we imagine that end to be characterized by the traits we find in Jesus Christ: compassion, justice, and love.

In faith, we long to be part of that purpose. Amen

James T Fatzinger, Touch Holiness

The Lord’s Supper

Words of Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Sharing of the Elements

Communion Song: “Let Us Break Bread Together”

Prayer following Communion

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Ann Hayman

The Offering

For the next few weeks, as an experiment, there will be an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. You are invited to place your pledge or donation in the plate upon arriving at or when leaving worship. At this time in the service we will proclaim our grace with an offertory, the singing of the Doxology and a Prayer of Dedication.

Offertory “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Matt Falaye Gwin

Announcements

Matt Falaye Gwin

Closing Hymn “We’ve Come this Far by Faith”

Hense Powell

by Albert A. Goodson

We’ve come this far by faith,
Leaning on the Lord.
Trusting in his holy word.
He’s never failed us yet.
Oh, oh- oh- can’t turn around,
We’ve come this far by faith.

We’ve come this far by faith,
Leaning on the Lord.
Trusting in his holy word.
He’s never failed us yet.
Oh, oh- oh- can’t turn around,
We’ve come this far by faith.

Don’t be discouraged with troubles in your life.
He’ll bear your burdens
And move all discord and strife.

Oh! We’ve come this far by faith,
Leaning on the Lord.
Trusting in his holy word.
He’s never failed us yet.
Oh, oh- oh- can’t turn around,
We’ve come this far by faith.

Just remember the good things He has done.
Things that seemed impossible.
Oh, praise Him for the vict'ries He has won.
He has won!

We've come this far by faith,
Leaning on the Lord.
Trusting in his holy word.
He's never failed us yet.
Oh, oh- oh- can't turn around,
We've come this far by faith.

Just the other day I heard a man say,
He didn't believe in God word.
But I can truly say the Lord will make a way.
Because He, He's never failed me yet.

We've come this far by faith,
Leaning on the Lord.
Trusting in his holy word.
He's never failed us yet.
Oh, oh- oh- can't turn around,
We've come this far by faith.

Oh, oh- oh- can't turn around,
We've come this far by, this far by faith!

Benediction

Rev. Ann Hayman

Take with you today these words:

“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary.”

Friends, receive and believe in this good news! God is our refuge and our strength.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

Postlude

Hense Powell