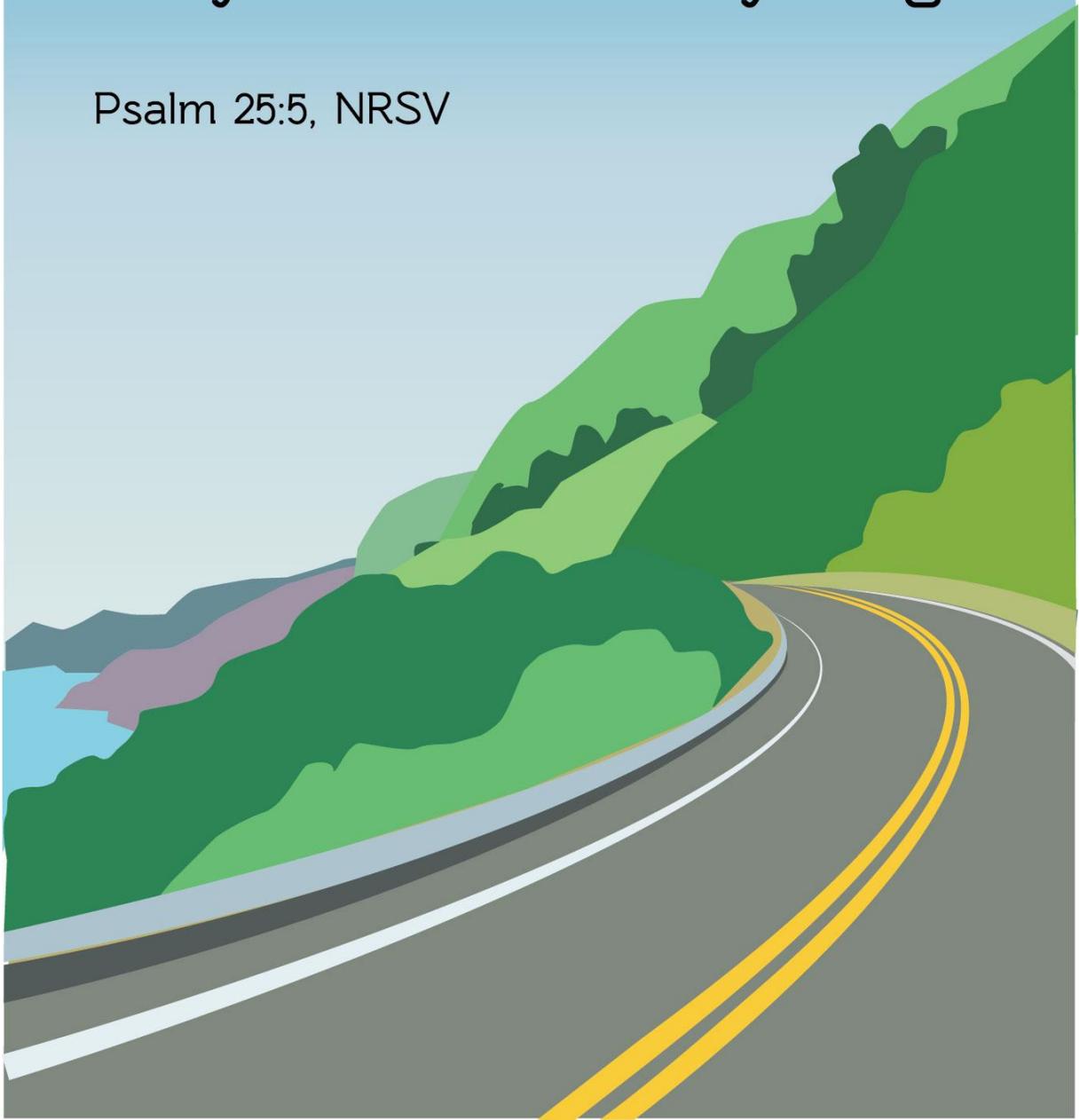


Lead me in your truth,
and teach me, for you are
the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

Psalm 25:5, NRSV



February 21, 2021

[Click here for a video of the service](#)

PRELUDE . . . “*Thy Holy Wings*”

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

With the help of the Spirit, look within. See what burdens
may be lifted, what obstacles may be removed,
what new life and promise await us.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Creator and Sovereign, our world and our lives are often full of
threat.

All: **We return to you in this place today to be reminded that
you do not abandon us to the hard realities of our lives.**

L: You are the one who saves us.

All: **You are the one who faithfully teaches us your life-giving
ways.**

L: You are the one who instills courage within us to stand up from
the waters of our baptism and to walk your path.

All: **Enter our hearts and lives for your powerful purposes, in
the name of our baptized brother Jesus and the soaring
Spirit. Amen.**



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism.

P: God of faithful love and powerful purpose, there are times when we are open to your leading— times when we walk the path of Jesus with courage and hope, even when doing so is fearful.

All: At other times, we close ourselves off, hoping that you won't tear open the skies and disrupt our lives completely.

P: Following Jesus can be pretty risky.

All: Your compassion and faithful love claim us forever,

P: as they claimed Jesus when he entered the Jordan and made a bold decision to follow you

All: on a new and uncertain path. Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: God's compassion and love are forever!

All: What God said of Jesus at his baptism, God says to us today:

P: You are my dearly loved children, whom I love deeply.

All: God forgives us and loves us dearly, now and forevermore.

GREETING

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.



LENTEN LITANY

L: Almighty God, be with us as we contend with our lives and all our challenges.

All: Thank you for listening as we bring before you the troubles that undermine us.

L: We affirm, it is written, "One does not live by bread alone."

All: Strengthen and sustain our families and our communities.

L: Nurture the bonds between us and inspire us to live with empathy and forgiveness.

All: Help those struggling with work or facing uncertainty in their futures, that they may find peace in your abundant love.

L: Jesus, our Redeemer, rescue us when we stumble.

All: Enable us to admit the temptations of the world, and support us to resist turning away from your teaching.

L: Awaken us to recognize the gifts you have given each one of us, and to see the role we can play in healing your creation.

All: God, our Creator, inspire us with renewed hope.

L: Deepen our faith to hear your word and follow your way.

All: Encourage us to bring all our hopes and desires to you in prayer,

L: that in lifting up our souls to you,

All: we may be shaped by your love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism.

All: May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Lead us in your truths, O God.

All: Teach us your ways and your paths.

Reader: Into whatever journey lies before us,

All: lead on, Holy Spirit; lead on.

READING . . . Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Who are they that fear the Lord? He will teach them the way that they should choose.

They will abide in prosperity, and their children shall possess the land.

The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes his covenant known to them.

My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress.
Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.
Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they
hate me.

O guard my life, and deliver me; do not let me be put to shame, for I
take refuge in you.

May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.

Redeem Israel, O God, out of all its troubles.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Carmen Blair*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: With grateful hearts, let us share a portion of the bounty God
has given us.

**All: We do so as an act of faith, and in support of God's work in
this congregation and the world.**

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and
you provide for our every need.

**All: Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and
transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus
Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.**



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists and science educators. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Hear now the prayers of our heart said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Let us pray.

All: Your Mercy is great.

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P: Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to: walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God.

All: We will walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High.

P: Walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: You are marked with the cross of Christ.

All: We go forth to love and serve God.

POSTLUDE . . . “We All Are One in Mission”

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgists: Art and Cheryl Kuhlmann

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema

