

First Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2021



A warm welcome to each of you as we gather for worship today and a special welcome to our guests. As we offer God our praise, may you be richly blessed by God's gracious Word, Meal and community.

HAVEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

1035 Haven Road Hagerstown, MD 21742 (301) 733-5056

Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 11:00 a.m.

Ministers: All God's People at Haven Pastor: Linda M. Alessandri

COME LET US WORSHIP!

Special worship notes and precautions for those worshipping in the church.

We are all *very* aware that we are still in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. We need to be very conscientious of following advised and good practices to protect ourselves and others from COVID. We gather together cautiously and carefully, seeking to be fed and upheld by time with our Lord and a community of believers in worship.

The following are guidelines crafted from recommendations from the CDC, DE-MD Synod and other worship communities. You may feel some of the precautions are excessive. You may feel awkward or constricted at first. But we ask you to observe the guidelines and persevere for the sake of the community and for the joy of being able to worship together.

We ask you please,

- wear a face covering at all times;
- maintain six-foot spacing from folks not in your own household
(Note: If a couple or family sit in your pew, you may need to move a bit to maintain the 6-foot spacing);
- use provided hand sanitizer as much as possible (as you enter & leave the building & in the pews);
- do not crowd in the narthex before or after worship; (Social distance please!)
- only **hum** do not sing; (Let our song leaders sing on our behalf.)
- offer congregational response with a quieter than usual volume;
- pass the peace from your seat, using a wave or bow to other worshipers;
- follow the directions of the ushers during communion, maintaining social distancing from folks not in your household at all times;
- leave your offering in the offering plates at the entrances to the sanctuary;
- follow the directions of the usher as we dismiss at the end of worship;

We start here, knowing we need to be flexible to accommodate better practices or changes in COVID's path. We thank you for your patience and cooperation, your presence and your prayers. Let's not let "what can't be" get in the way of our appreciation of "what is" --- the opportunity to worship in God's presence with other beloved children of God. GOD IS WITH US. Thanks be to God.

Traditionally Lent is a period of 40 days of intentional prayer, fasting and charity --- a time for deepening our relationship with God in a variety of faith-filled expressions. It is a time of truth-telling ---- a journey into the core of who we are and how we express it in word and action. Trusting in the love and mercy of God, we risk to face what weighs us down and distracts us from God and our neighbor, that we might draw closer to God and the fullness of who we were created to be. Be bold. Be brave. Through Christ we are set free from the fear of sin and death and set free to be transformed by the boundless, eternal love of God. Welcome to the gift of Lent.

GATHERING HYMN

“Oh, Love, How Deep”

(vs. 1) #322



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
 3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
 dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
 for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
 he bore the shameful cross and death;
 for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again;
 for us he went on high to reign;
 for us he sent his Spirit here
 to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God
 for love so deep, so high, so broad:
 the Trinity whom we adore
 forever and forevermore.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A: Return to the Lord, your God, with all your heart.

C: **Return to the LORD who is gracious and merciful,
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

(Joel 2: 12, 13)

PRELUDE

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” setting, Joe Utterback

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Lent is a traditional time for self-examination and reflection. Assured of God's love and forgiveness we can dare to face ourselves and the ways we hurt God, others and ourselves. We make our confession trusting in our Lord whose love is eternal and whose grace is unfailing.)

P: Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation! (2 Cor. 6: 2b)

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

D GM⁷ Bm/F# Em⁷ A A/G F#m⁷

Oh, let the Son of God en - fold you with his Spir - it and his

Bm⁷ Em⁷ A⁷ DM⁷

love, let him fill your heart and sat - is - fy your soul.

Em⁷ F#m⁷ GM⁷ Bm/F# Em⁷ A A/G F#m⁷

Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spir - it like a

Bm⁷ Em⁷ Em⁷/A G/A A D C/E D/F#

dove will de - scend up - on your life and make you whole.

Refrain

GM⁷ A/G F#m⁷ Bm⁷ Em⁷

Je - sus, O Je - sus, come and

A DM⁷ C/E D/F# GM⁷ A A/G

fill your lambs. Je - sus, O

F#m⁷ Bm⁷ Em⁷ Asus⁷ A⁷ D

Je - sus, come and fill your lambs.

P: With honesty of heart and trusting in the steadfast, sure love of God,
C: **We confess, to you, Lord, and to one another,
our sin and our need for healing.**

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P: Gracious God,
C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
Sin separates us from You and our brothers and sisters.
Sin ties us up in knots and confuses us.
Sin sours our attitudes and destroys right priorities.**

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

What separates or distracts you from your love of God and your neighbor?

**We are in need of a Savior. We want to live in Your love.
We want to better listen to Your words of truth and guidance.
We want to know Your power in our lives,
so that we can be faithful servants in Your world.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, Lord,
so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways,
to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

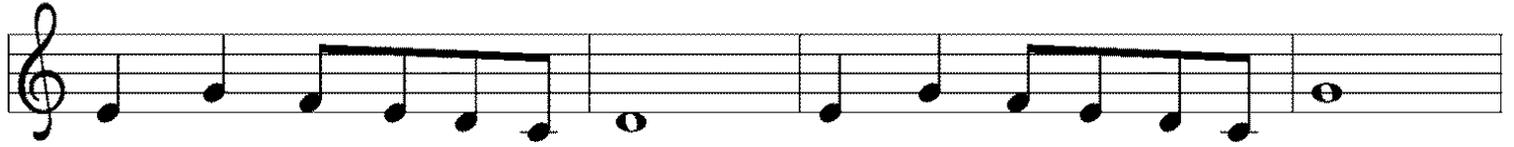
*A silence is kept to sit with our Lord,
humbly awake to our sin but also keenly aware
of God's forgiveness and unceasing love for us.*

P: We are reconciled to God through Christ;
For his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us.
Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God.
Once lost, we now are found.
In the mercy of almighty God, receive the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

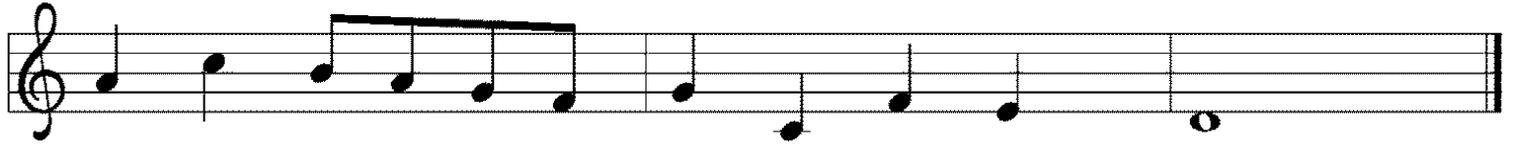
Hymn:

“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”

(sing three times) #814



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

GREETING

P: The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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. 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.

C: **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“Jesus Loves Me”

(vs. 1 & Refrain) #595

Verse 1

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.*

Refrain

*Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

FIRST READING

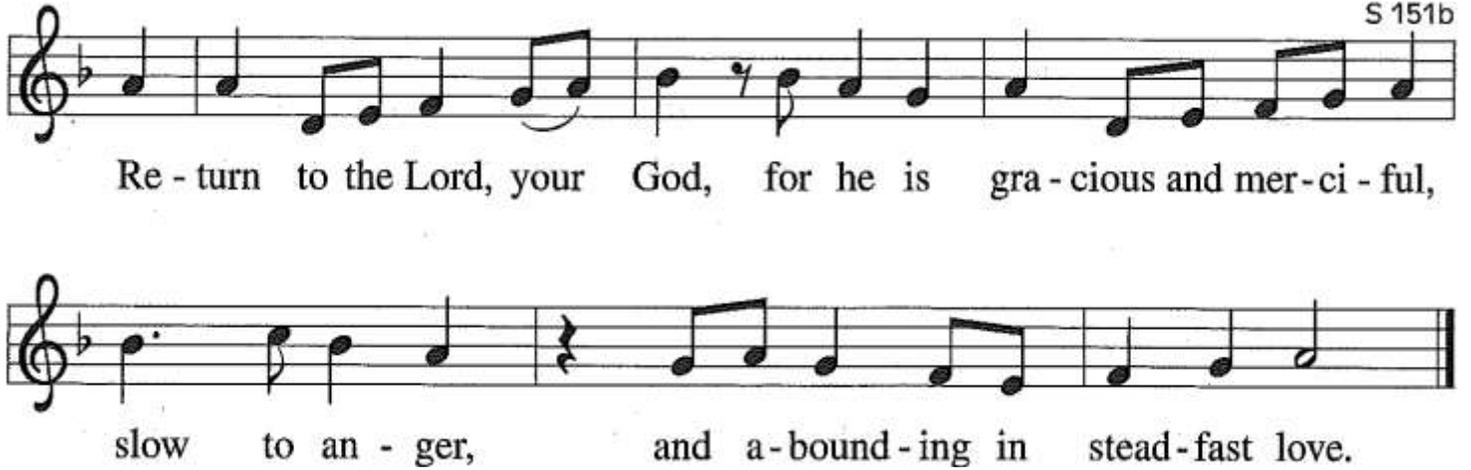
Genesis 9: 8-17
(after the reading)

A: The Word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Return to the Lord”

ELW p. 151



S 151b

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1: 9-15

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark the first chapter.
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

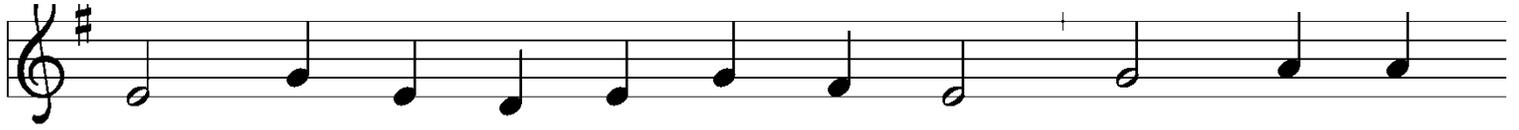
(after the Gospel is read)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

Pastor Linda Alessandri

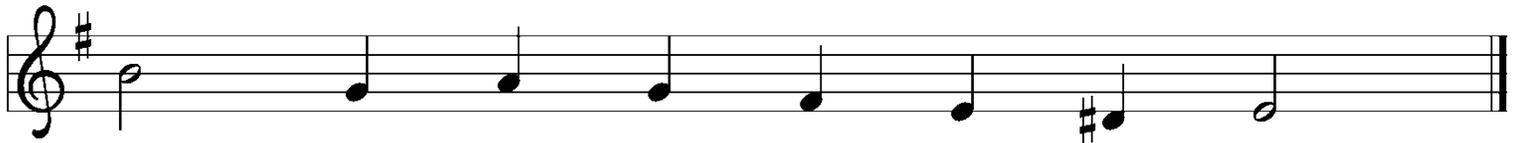
HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" (vs. 1,3) #517



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

THE PRAYERS

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

(A brief silence.)

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.

Your mercy is great.

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

Your mercy is great.

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Protect those sent in harm's way for the sake of peace especially **Gavin Anderson, Ben Asbury, Richard Collins, Cole Conrad, Nick Graham, Michael McKenzie III, Gabe Seilhamer, Nathan Snell, and Hunter Wiles**, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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, especially,

Carol Shull
***Virginia White**
***Sandy Brandon**
***Raven Lucas**
***Edward Staley**
***Helen VanderHamm**
***Nasrin Sotoudeh**
***Courtney Belmont**
***Caitlyn Battoe**
***Debora Daniels**
Sharon & Larry
Hartsock
***Teresa Hoover**
***Lindsey Hoover**
***Johnny Wright**
***Cheryl Nathan**

***Sarah Duckwall**
***William Burkley**
***Monica McDonald**
***Mary & Family**
***John Libo**
***Ethan Sussman**
Pat Pile
Irene Giffin
***Jennifer McCleaf**
***Joyce Bossinger**
***Dave Burkholder**
***Nevin Smith**
***Tally Uchima**
John Britton, Jr.
***Bradley Palmer**
***Lulie Family**

Harold Rice
***Robert and Thelma**
Miller
Kathy Amos
***Baby Joey**
***Carla Charles &**
Family
Beth Johns
***Bob Powell**
***Ron**
***Larry Ball**
***Christina & family**
***Keith & family**
***Eric Mills**

for those who mourn the loss of Kendra Sellers, Doris Pittinger and Betty Calvert and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts at this time (*Pause*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us safely offer one another a sign of God's peace.

(Honor social distancing, wave or a slight bow with your hand on your heart toward others as a way to extend God's peace.)

THE MEAL

THE OFFERING *(please be seated)*

P: It's Offering Time! **C: Praise God!**

(Thank you for your faithful generosity. May God bless what we give and use it to bring wholeness, healing and hope to God's world. Amen.)

THE OFFERING PRAYER

A: Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends.

**C: Prepare us to witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
in the beginning you formed the heavens and earth
and created us in your likeness.

You made us guardians of your good creation and left the earth in our care.
All through our weary years and our silent tears,

you did not abandon us to ourselves, but sought us out in love.
When we were captives in Egypt, you did not abandon us.
When we wandered in the wilderness, you did not abandon us.
When we turned to false gods, you did not abandon us.
Through your holy prophets you called us to return
to your graciousness, to your mercy, and to your steadfast love.

In the crowning act of love you gave your only Son,
that whoever believes in him will have eternal life.

For you sent Jesus not to condemn the world,
but to save the world from sin.

Through his death on the cross, we who were once far off,
have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup, we remember Christ's life among us;
his association with outcasts, his eating with sinners,
his healing of the sick, his care for the poor.

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine,
that we who share this meal may become a holy communion,
the body of Christ in the world.

**C: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
happy are those who are called to your supper.

(John 1:29b)

C: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,

but only say the word and I shall be healed.

(Matthew 8: 8)

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

For those communing in their homes: Please have your communion set(s) ready. Pastor will ask you to remove the film over the host and take it in hand. Pastor will then say, "Body of Christ, given for you." Please consume the host.

Pastor will then ask you to peel back the protective film/foil over the grape juice. Pastor will say, "Blood of Christ, shed for you." Please drink the grape juice. When all at home and in the church have received communion, Pastor will offer a blessing on all who have shared in this gift of holy communion.

For those communing in the church: Holy Communion will be offered in bread (wafer) and wine. Grape juice is also available.

As your section of the church is invited forward, please follow the usher's directions. Leave a six-foot distance between yourself and non-family members in front of you.

First come to the pastor to receive the bread dropped into your hand. Then please step to the side and lift up or remove your mask to place the wafer in your mouth.

Second, replace your mask and go to the assisting minister to take a cup of wine or grape juice. Again, please step aside to take off your mask and drink the wine. As you return to your seat, there will be a basket on a shelf where you can dispose of your empty cup.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

“Lamb of God”

p. 135



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

“Change My Heart, O God”

(cont. p. 15) #801

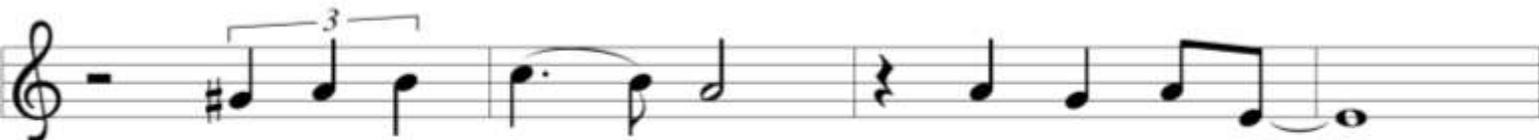
Refrain



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Refrain



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

#608



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

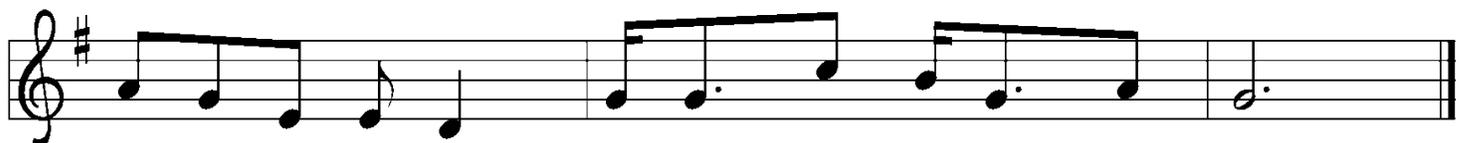
Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

TABLE BLESSING

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: O God, in this holy meal you have embraced us and gathered us into your arms of compassion and protection.

C: Send us now to go on our way this Lenten season, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need.

A: Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P: May God †, who has forgiven and fed us, now make us strong for these days ahead.

C: Amen!

P: May Jesus lead us, and we be found faithful to follow.

C: Amen!

P: May the Spirit drive us into the wilderness, burning away the chaff of our lives, and purifying our hearts for all to see and be blessed.

C: Amen!



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

POSTLUDE

"Meditation"

Pastena

DISMISSAL

A: Marked by the cross of Christ, go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: We will! Thanks be to God.

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SERVING IN TODAY’S WORSHIP:

Presiding Minister	Pastor Linda Alessandri
Assisting Minister	Danny Kiblinger
Music Director/Organist	Stephen Pastena
Guitarist	Bill Byers
Acolyte	Maddie Haupt
Music Leaders	Charlotte Loveless, Margaret McKee
Ushers	Marge Cunningham, Elaine Michael, Bob Snyder

We also Remember in Prayer:

Our homebound members: *Sari Kilheffer, Phyllis Meyers, Inez Winebrenner and Dorothy Zinkand.*

Military personnel serving in harm’s way: *Gavin Anderson, Ben Asbury, Richard Collins, Cole Conrad, Nick Graham, Michael McKenzie III, Gabe Seilhammer, Nathan Snell, Hunter Wiles.*

Hospital Admissions: Due to the recent COVID surge, Meritus has discontinued in-person pastoral visitation at this time. However, Meritus can make it possible for a clergy to offer prayer via phone, zoom or outside the patient’s room. The patient or family must request this by contacting Spiritual Care, 301-790-8479. PLEASE call Haven’s church office or Pastor Alessandri if you or a loved one have a planned or emergency admission so she can provide support as permitted. We also want to add that person to our prayer list so our congregation can hold you or your loved one in prayer.

Prayers for all those who mourn the loss of Kendra Sellers (daughter of Sharon Sellers who passed away in 2019), Doris Pittinger and Betty Calvert (Dick Hess’ aunt).

Readings for next week: Second Sunday of Lent, Feb. 28, 2021 – Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16, Ps. 22:23-31, Mk. 8:31-38

	Year To Date Actual ending Jan. 2021	Year to Date Budget	Year To Date (over/behind budget)
	\$ 11,813.20	\$16,663	(\$4,849.80)

Serving God’s People next Sunday morning: February 28, 2021

Presiding Minister	Pastor Linda Alessandri
Assisting Minister	Terry Trovinger
Organist	Stephen Pastena
Guitarist	Bill Byers
Music Leaders	Charlotte Loveless, Bill Clark

Acolyte
Ushers

Austin Suchy
Amy Mason, Dave Resh, Susan Strobl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For up-to-date information about church events and worship visit www.havenlc.org.

Announcements this week:

- Feb. 24 10:00 Adult Bible Study** (*Enter by Big Brothers Big Sister's office & follow signs*)
7:00 Midweek Lenten Worship (Live stream on Facebook)
Order of Service: Holden Evening Prayer
Reflection: *"Living into our Baptism: To Live Among God's Faithful People"*
- Feb. 28 9:30 Worship** (In person and Live on Facebook)
10:30 Haven's Annual Meeting (In Person and via ZOOM)

HAVEN ANNUAL MEETING ON ZOOM

FEBRUARY 28, 2021 10:30 AM

Again, we need a quorum of 50 to elect new Council members
(Can I lure you with a chance to win
a bucket of ACT chicken or homemade dessert?)

Join Zoom Meeting on your computer click (or copy & paste in your browser)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89944487001?pwd=VnhkYm8xNXZTaE5CR0RzYjRVemM0QT09>
Meeting ID: 899 4448 7001 Passcode: 481006

Join ZOOM Meeting on your phone, dial +1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 899 4448 7001 Passcode: 481006

BOOK CLUB RESCHEDULED Because of the snow predicted last week our Book Club meeting was postponed. We are now meeting this **Thursday, Feb. 25 at 2:00 pm**. We hope you can make it then. It's such a good book to discuss. - Joan

CANCELLATION OF CHURCH EVENTS – Any cancellations of worship service will be noted on the church's phone system in the special events/cancellation voicemail. When calling the church, after the main greeting, press the (*) key. This is where we will record all weather-related information.

LENT 2021 - A SEASON OF RENEWAL AND REFRESHMENT

DO YOU HAVE YOUR LENTEN WORSHIP BAG?

WE'VE PACKED A BAG FOR YOUR LENTEN ADVENTURE

For those who are regularly worshipping in the sanctuary, you can pick up your bag today in the narthex. **It will contain** a Lenten Devotional booklet for your household, blessed communion elements for Maundy Thursday (for one person,) a bar of soap with instructions and a copy of Holden Evening Prayer for our Midweek Lenten services. Please add an extra baggie of communion elements and copy of Holden Evening Prayer for each additional person in your household.

For those who are worshipping at home, you may pick up your bag at the parsonage back porch. They will be in large covered bins to protect them from the weather. **It will contain** a Lenten Devotional booklet for your household, blessed communion elements for all the Sundays of Lent, Maundy Thursday and Easter (for one person,) a bar of soap with instructions and a copy of Holden Evening Prayer for our Midweek Lenten services. Please add a baggie of 8 blessed communion elements and an extra Holden Evening Prayer for each additional person in your household.

WEDNESDAY LIVE-STREAMED LENTEN WORSHIP 7:00 pm

Our music and order of worship will be the lovely Holden Evening Prayer, with brief meditations on Living into our Baptismal Promises.

Lord, Your Servant Is Listening **DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

HELPING THE RESIDENTS OF HOLLY PLACE On the third Sunday of the month we collect an offering to support the ministry of Holly Place among the elders that call it home.

GOOD NEWS – MICAH'S BACKPACKS TO RESUME As children return to the classroom at Fountaindale Elementary, we will be providing weekend meals for four of those students. We hope to serve even more in the near future. Please keep our schools --- students, teachers and staff --- in prayer!

Haven Mission Statement:

“To honor God, to reach out with love to our members and the community and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.”