

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"How deep the Father's love for us."

Townend / Shackley

*THE POSTLUDE

Prelude in Em BWV 533

J. S. Bach



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 26, 2005
9:25 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent
Liturgical Color: Purple

(The asterisk (*) designates when the congregation will please stand. Worshipers who find standing difficult are invited to remain seated. **Bold print** is read or sung by the congregation. Worshipers are encouraged to turn off their cell phones while they are in the sanctuary.)

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(You are invited to sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pads. When it reaches the end of the pew, please pass it back so that all may note those worshipping today. Cards are available in the pew for those desiring to request prayer or praise for specific needs, concerns and joys. Please place the card in the offering plate during the offering.)

Prelude

"Thy Strong Word" (Tune: Ebenezer)

Youth Handbell Choir

Arr. John A. Behnke

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ!

All: We have come to experience God's grace in our worship and in our lives!

*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT

(The congregation stands with the first note of the chimes. The living flame, symbolizes the presence of God's Holy Spirit. The Holy Bible is placed facing the congregation as a reminder that God's Word is open and available to all.)

*LIGHTING OF THE LENTEN WREATH

**Mike Rodgers, Zachary & Andrew Rodgers
and Kyle & Christopher Hartzog**

Leader: May His Passion be our joy.

People: May the glory of His rising be our song.

(Four candles are lit)

Leader: The Holy Cross in the distance shines in splendor.

People: In the Cross is our victory and strength.

Leader: Let us pray that our lives may witness to the joy that is there in serving God and our fellow men.

ALL: Lord Jesus, grant us that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to serve you faithfully and be ever free to praise you with joy. AMEN.

Grace United Methodist Church

Ministers

The Congregation of Grace United Methodist Church

Pastors

Stephen A. Beutler Grace Marie Ransom Rob Ransom

Our Missionaries

Oscar Ramos, Hispanic Ministry of North Indiana Conference

Jeff Newton, Kokomo Urban Outreach Ministries

Dr. Robert Marke, Medical Missionary, Kissy, Sierra Leone

Specialized Ministries

Barbara Hobbs, Pianist/Organist	Pam Lyon, Altar Choir Director
Jacque Hunt, Ensemble Director	Arlene Buell, Director of Handbell Choirs
Debra Long, Volunteer Parish Nurse	Phill Montgomery, Counselor
Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager	Carisa Durham, Childcare Provider

Our Greeters today are Barb & Larry Moss and Bruce Clark.

Our "Ask Me" greeters are Teresa & Jack Amos.

Our Nursery volunteers are Julie, Josh, Chelsea & David Maupin.

Children's Worship volunteers are Angela and Alexis Stamper.

The roses on the altar are in memory of Ray & Dorothy Hemstreet and Marcia Woods.

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Jesu, Jesu”

Hymn No. 432

THE CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

We bask in the healing power of your love, O God. You are always with us. You are with us when we cry out in fear. You are with us when we are discouraged. You are with us when we are alone. You are with us all the time, day and night. For your presence, we are most thankful. Hear us now as we pray, each in our own words and in our own way.

Moments of Silent Prayer

(Those desiring to come to the chancel for a time of prayer are welcome to come and kneel or stand)

The Pastoral Prayer

The 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. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

ANTHEM

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

Altar Choir
Townend / Shackley

How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure
that He should give His only Son to make a wretch his treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away
as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

How high, how wide, how deep the Father’s love for us.

Behold the Man upon a cross, by sin upon his shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life I know it is finished.

How pure, how strong, how deep the Father’s love for us.

I will not boast of anything: no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

(During the playing of the hymn, *“Children of the Heavenly Father”*, children, pre-school through Grade 2 are invited to attend an age appropriate worship experience in Room # 102, Lower Level. An adult will meet the children at the sanctuary exit to escort our little ones to their room.)

SERMON

Pastor Rob Ransom

How is this possible?

RESPONDING TO GOD IN OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

(Today’s loose coin offering is dedicated to MUFF –
a local ministry to assist needy families with their heating bills.)

The Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

Douglas E. Wagner

*The Lenten Chorus and Prayer of Dedication

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your spirit free.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

HYMN OF INVITATION TO A LIFE WITH CHRIST

Hymn No. 384

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT

(The flame on the altar at the close of the service is a symbol to remind us
that we must carry the message of God’s grace out from this sanctuary into the world.)

*THE BENEDICTION