

**Sunday March 7, 2021**  
**Just When All Seems Lost....Rising from Ashes**

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Our lips sing praise and our whole selves rejoice in the God who makes us free.

**People:** *(Out loud, but muted)* **We gather, recognizing that not all human beings have known this freedom.**

**Leader:** The divine will was made known in Eden and in Egypt; in Selma and in Cape Town.

**People:** *(Out loud, but muted)* **Born in freedom, redeemed from slavery, our destiny in Christ is liberty.**

**Opening Prayer** **Unison** *(Out loud, but muted)*

**We are thankful for all the blessings of this life;  
love, freedom, bounty and beauty.**

**The joy we know is beyond our words to speak.**

**We can only image the suffering and pain of enslaved humans, past and present,  
which yearn from the depths of their souls to know the freedom we enjoy.**

**We celebrate this day the heritage we have in the cause of human freedom.**

**We celebrate this day our spiritual ancestors**

**who worked for the freedom of the Mendi people on the slave ship, Amistad.**

**May that ship, like the cross, remind us of the ever present possibility of human  
evil.**

**And may that ship, like the cross, remind us of the power of divine love.**

**May we, through divine love,**

**shed the false, un-neighborly, covetous and dishonorable desires  
of the lives we sometimes live**

**and keep the commandments and walk in the way that brings life. Amen.**

**Hymn # 43: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

*(Please see separate attachment for the score)*

1) Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, on earth be found,

fix in us a humble dwelling,  
all your faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, you are all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love impart.  
Visit us with your salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

2) Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast.  
Let us all in you inherit,  
let us find your promised rest.  
Take away our love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

3) Come, almighty, to deliver,  
let us all your life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore your temples leave.  
You we would be always blessing,  
love you as your angels love,  
pray, and praise for your unfailing,  
wounded arms outstretched above.

4) Finish, then, your new creation;  
pure and spotless may we prove.  
Let us see your great salvation  
perfectly restored in you.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

### **Pastor's Call to Confession**

Sisters and Brothers, in our daily lives we need the gift of the season of Lent. These 40 days can help us restore right relationships with God and with others. This is a fine time to focus, clear our hearts and minds of distractions, and re-orient and restore our whole selves. May God be with us. Let us join in our unison Prayer of Confession.

Prayer of Confession **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

**In this season of Lent we reflect on those things that lead us away from the life we desire.**

**We focus on whatever we do that oppresses and enslaves others who, like us, are created in the image of the divine.**

**And now we seek the grace that frees us to live in faithfulness to holy love. Amen**

*Silent Prayer*

**Assurance of Pardon**

The God who brought the Israelites out of Egypt,  
is the power that frees us from our sin.

Live in the grace of God's love

as you walk in the way of Jesus

and surely you shall find mercy at the end of that road. **Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace** (*unmute for Passing of the Peace*)

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you

People: **And also with you!**

**Reading**

Ron Dobson

**Exodus 20:1-17 (NIV)**

20:1 Then God spoke all these words:

20:2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

20:3 you shall have no other gods before me.

20:4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

20:5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,

20:6 but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

20:7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD

will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

20:8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

20:10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work--you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

20:11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

20:13 You shall not murder.

20:14 You shall not commit adultery.

20:15 You shall not steal.

20:16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

### **Special Music**

Rachel Alexander and Laura Knutson

### **Gospel Reading**

#### **John 2:13-22 (NIV)**

2:13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2:14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.

2:15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

2:16 He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

2:17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

2:18 The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

2:20 The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?"

2:21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

2:22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

## **Musical Interlude**

### **Sermon: Just When All Seems Lost....Rising from Ashes**

## **Music for Meditation**

**Prayers of the People** (unmute yourself to offer a request, giving first names only, please)

**Hymn #508** Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire (verses 1 and 5)  
(sung muted but together, Wei Der playing)

**Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed;  
The motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.  
O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way,  
The path of prayer you too have trod: Christ, teach us how to pray.**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

## Offering Invitation

Our tokens offered here  
are but symbols of our lives of sacrifice lived every day.  
May we give ourselves to the world as a holy offering acceptable to you,  
O God, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

## Offering and Dedication **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

**Receive these gifts, Holy One,  
sanctify them by your Spirit.  
Drive away any ill motives  
and accept, we pray, our humble offering. Amen.**

## Service of Holy Communion

### Invitation

### Words of Institution

### Sharing the Elements

## Unison Communion Prayer

**As we eat this meal together and as we drink this juice of life in each other's presence grant unto us an emerging, fulfilling, and redeeming sense of life calling. In this holy meal of communion we feel the allure and enticement of fellowship enriching us and making us more able to serve you and your ends in life. With eternal gratitude we give you thanks. Amen.**

## Blessing and Benediction **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

**Go into the world without fear,  
knowing that the Holy is stronger than every human power.  
Live free! And the God who brought the Israelites out of Egypt,  
the God who freed the Mendi from slavery,  
will be your strength and your power. Amen.**