## Welcome to Worship on this



## **Blended Service**



# French River Lutheran Church Duluth, MN

March 10, 2024 ~10:00 a.m.
Reverend Kim Sturtz ~ Presiding
Worship Assistant: Sandy Dahlberg
Lectors: Kevin Stroom
Altar Guild: Heather Mindestrom
Musician: Organist - David Fiebiger;
Riversong Rising & French River Choir

## \* Coffee Fellowship to follow worship!

## Welcome to all in Jesus' Name!

Hello and Welcome! LARGE PRINT worship folders are available from an usher. A family restroom and nursery are to the left of the sanctuary and separate bathrooms also located downstairs. To contact the pastor or church office, you are invited to complete a pew card and return the information portion either to an usher or by way of the offering plate. Busy Bags are available for children in the Welcome Center! We appreciate electronic devices set on "mute" during the service. Gracious thanks and we are glad you are here!

### Bold Print signals places where the assembly speaks in unity in worship

\* Indicates where to stand as you are able in body or in Spirit.

### **WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

<u>PRELUDE:</u> <u>Organist</u>: David Fiebiger

# ———GATHERING——— The Holy Spirit gathers us together as people of God.

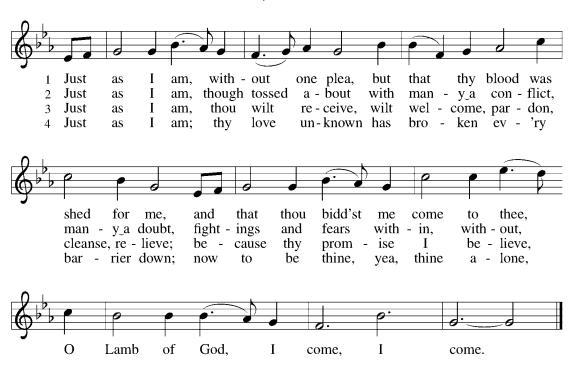
#### \*GREETING:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 

\*GATHERING SONG: "Just As I Am, without One Plea"

ELW #592

## Just As I Am, without One Plea



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP:

On our worst days,

God is good.

On our best days,

God is good.

When life is consistent,

God is good.

And when life turns on its head,

God is good.

Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

God is good. God is here. God is love.

Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

# \*SONG OF PRAISE: "Blessed Be Your Name" (Contemporary Worship Booklet)

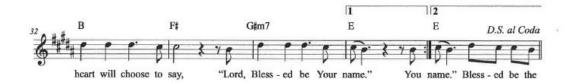
# ~Matt & Beth Redman Riversong Rising













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#### \*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

There's a moment in our scripture today when Jesus turns to Peter, named "the rock" of the church, and says, "Get behind me, Satan!"

I don't know about you all, but that's a pretty bad day for Peter.

It's a pretty bad day when Jesus calls you Satan!

Fortunately, this absurd moment comforts me with the knowledge that even Peter made mistakes. Peter, who was given the keys to Heaven. Peter, Jesus' right-hand man, made mistakes just like me. And still, Jesus chose him. Knowing that, let us speak honestly with God. For even on our worst days, we belong to God, and that will never change.

Join me in prayer— (Silence is kept for reflection.)

### Holy God,

We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense.

Like Peter, we want to yell out, "This should not happen!"

We want to control scenarios beyond our reach.

We want to hold your world in our hands.

Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen.

Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen.

With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God, no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change—we worship a God of grace. Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

(Pour water into the baptismal font as you speak the following lines.)

God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine. We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven. Now follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world.

Amen.

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Listening God,

If we could attach ourselves to you, we would.

We would scribble your scripture onto our tender hearts.

We would weave your good news into the fiber of our being.

We would bind ourselves to you, but instead, we wander.

Instead of attaching ourselves to you,

we find ourselves swept up in the business of the day.

Like a seesaw of faithfulness, we move back and forth, up and down,

constantly trying to find you in the midst of it all.

So speak clearly to us now.

Quiet the distractions long enough for us to affix ourselves to your good news.

We are listening.

We are hungry.

We are hopeful.

Amen.

## <u>F. R. Choir Anthem</u>: "Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley" ~John Ferguson

#### ———WORD———

## God speaks to us through scripture, preaching, and song.

A reading from Numbers:

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole

#### FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

**Kevin Stroom** 

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19) Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

## Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim

that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

gathering them in from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

## Some were fools and took rebellious paths;

through their sins they were afflicted.

They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

# Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.

You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

# Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

## A reading from Ephesians:

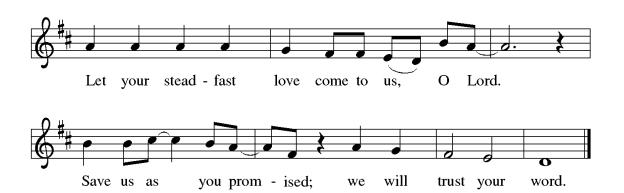
While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

(The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.)



#### \*GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-23

The Holy Gospel according to *Matthew 16:21-23*. **Glory to you, O Lord.** 

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

<u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u>:

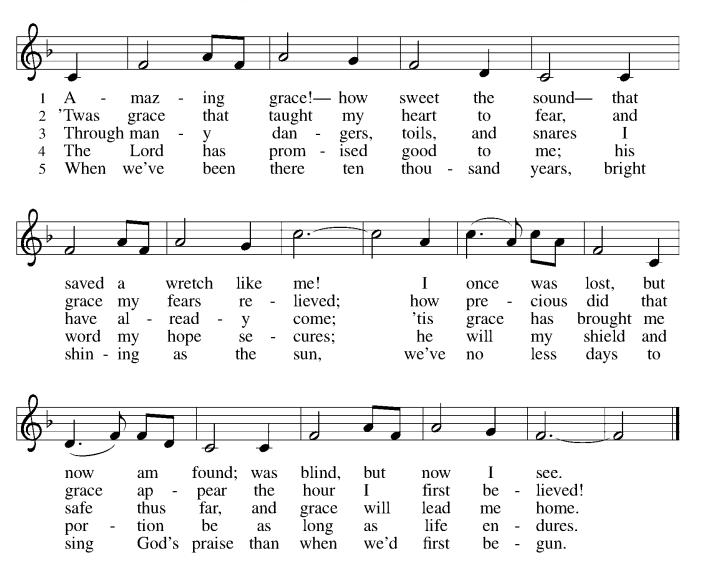
The Reverend Kim Sturtz

**SERMON**:

The Reverend Kim Sturtz

\*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" ELW #779

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

#### \*APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.\*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,

\*PEACE: The Peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you. Please share this peace with your neighbors.

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Kevin Stroom** 

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

(A brief silence.)

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

### Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

#### \*OFFERING PRAYER:

(If you did not place your offering in the plate as you entered the sanctuary, please feel free to hand it to an usher upon dismissal. During the week, offerings may be placed in the secure lockbox by the lower doors [slot is right of the door]. Mail and online giving are also available. Thank you for your generous support of our ministry together!)

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.

Amen.

#### ———MEAL———

## God feeds us in goodness and grace with the presence of Jesus Christ.

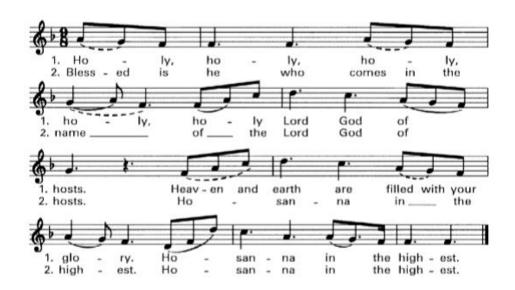
All are welcome at the Lord's Table to receive the true presence of Jesus in the bread and wine. Communion will be distributed continuously using the form of intinction. After you have received the bread, you may "intinct" (dip) it in the wine or juice. Children not communing may come forward for a blessing. Commune with the pastor if you prefer a gluten-free wafer.

### \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION & BLESSING:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** 

\*PREFACE: Lent

\*Holy, Holy, Holy: by Grayson Brown



### \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

## \*LORD'S PRAYER:

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

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:

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

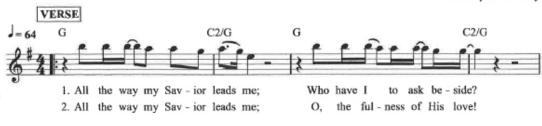
\*COMMUNION SONG: "All the Way My Savior Leads Me"

~Chris Tomlin & Matt Redman (Contemporary Worship Booklet)

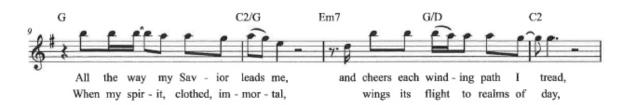
**Riversong Rising** 

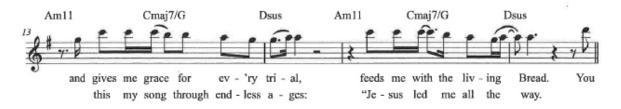
#### All The Way My Savior Leads Me

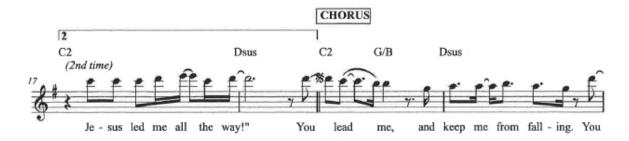
Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman and Fanny Jane Crosby



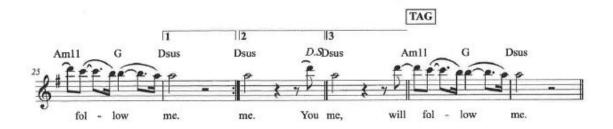














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#### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.** 

#### ————SENDING———

God blesses us and equips us as disciples sent into the world.

#### \*A BENEDICTION FOR THE SERIES:

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat,

to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting the good news. Amen.

\*SENDING SONG: "God So Loved" (Contemporary Worship Booklet)

~Ed Cash **Riversong Rising** 

#### God So Loved

(based on the recording by We The Kingdom on the album "Holy Water" | original key - Bb) Words and Music by Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash Scott Cash and Andrew Bergthold





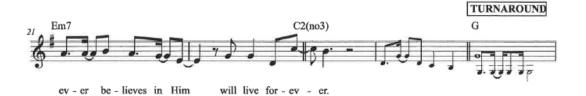
nev - er runs dry. Drink of the wa - er, come and thirst no more.





Taste of His good - ness, find what you're look - ing for.





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## \*SENDING:

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

(For those in pews, please remain seated until invited by an usher to depart.)

#### **POSTLUDE:**

**Organist**: David Fiebiger

## Thank you for joining us wherever you are. Remember, you are beloved and blessed!

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Covid-19 Preparedness**

In the care and consideration of others, the wearing of masks is optional for worship. However, if you or a family member are experiencing any fever, cough, stomach issues, or are recovering from an illness or other ailments within 48 hours before gathering in worship, we strongly advise the wearing of a mask while in worship.

A simple mask in these moments and places helps us protect loved ones, especially the weak and elderly, front-line medical personnel and their families, our faith community and larger communities.

Thank you for this kindness.



#### **Coming Up:**

3/10 Sun: 10a – 10a – Fourth Sunday in Lent; Blended

Worship In-Person/Online: Rev. Kim Sturtz

10:45a – Sunday School 11:15a – Coffee Fellowship

3/11 Mon: 7p - Finance

3/12 Tues: 9a - Bulletin Deadline; 7p - AA

3/13 Wed: 5:30p - Lenten Soup/Supper;

6:30p - Holden Eve. Prayer Service

**3/14 Thurs:** 10:30a – W&M; 1p – WELCA; 5p – Riversong Rising;

5:30-7p - 1st Communion Class

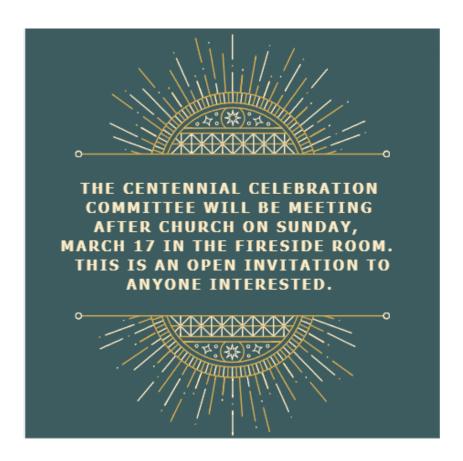
3/17 Next Sun: 10a – Fifth Sunday in Lent; Contemporary

Worship In-Person/Online: Rev. Kim Sturtz

10:45a - Sunday School

**11a – Centennial Meeting;** 11:15a – Coffee Fellowship

**Easter Altar Garden** in memory/in honor of slips are available at the ushers stand and in the March 2024 edition of *The Parables*. Please return to the FRLC office (there is an envelope for collection on the office door), in a collection plate or in the FRLC drop box by the lakeside door. Thank you!



The 37<sup>th</sup> annual NE MN Synod Assembly is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, and you could be a delegate from the comfort of your home! Attending the assembly is a great way to learn what is happening within our synod, proposed resolutions, and so much more. This is a Zoom meeting. Contact any member of the FRLC Council with your interest in this opportunity to represent our church.





FRLC Council has chosen to equally split our special Lenten and Easter offering to Second Harvest Northland and The Seafarers Center (Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers). Thank you for your generosity.

(Please note: there are two opportunities for giving on March 31, those being the traditional Sunday offering and a special Easter offering. If using numbered envelopes, the distinction is already made. All other gifts should be designated accordingly. Thank you.



#### **Welcome to French River Lutheran Church**

You are welcome to keep this bulletin, however, we recycle when possible so you may leave it on the ushers' stand.



**Immediate**: Marlene Miller, prayers for healing from eye surgery; prayers for peace and comfort both as she travels to be with Dennis as he is nearing the end of his journey.; Deb Sodomka (cousin of Bill & Susie Lannon).

**Long-Term**: Phil Strom, for Parkinsons; Julie Moe-Hommerding; 5-year-old great niece of Susie Lannon (heart surgery 6/26/17, still not healthy); Kathy Johnson (Carol Leppala's friend); Bruce Sundberg; Angela Debelak, (niece of Gail Johnson) is currently in remission from for her brain cancer and recovering slowly; please continue to pray for no recurrence.; Alex Peterson – military service; Todd Sironen.

## WHEN SUBMITTING A NAME TO THE TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN, PLEASE INDICATE IF IT IS PERMISSABLE TO LIST IN THE BULLETIN.

Called by the Spirit	March 10	March 17		
Worship Leader	Rev. Kim Sturtz	Rev. Kim Sturtz		
Lector	Kevin Stroom	Joanne Kronstedt		
Altar Guild	Heather Mindestrom	Rhonda O'Leary		
Ushers	Chris & Ann Rankila	Rex & Elda Hein		
Counters/Worship	Rolf Carlson/	Sue Baker/		
Assistant*	Sandy Dahlberg*	Beth Hendrickson*		
Coffee Fellowship	Bethlehem Team	Bethlehem Team		
Prayer Chain	Babs Strom 218.525.6200			

## French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Rd, Duluth, MN 55804

Church: (218)525-5659; frlc5310@gmail.com

Pr. Kim Sturtz: (218)393-7444; frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com

Office hours vary so please call ahead.

FRLC webpage: www.frenchriverlutheran.org.

FRLC Mission: "To live and love as God commands, accept His grace, and share the Good News."

Watch services at FRLC anytime! YouTube live streaming of the service at https://www.voutube.com/c/FrenchRiverLutheranChurch

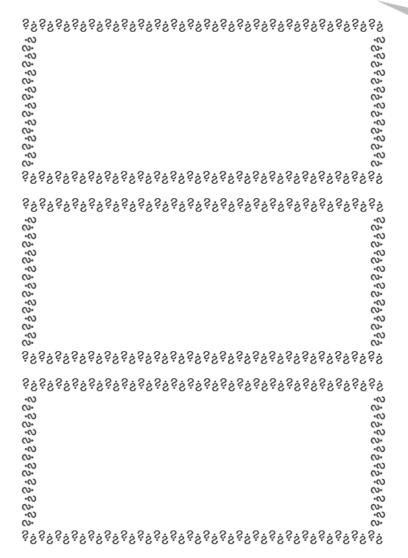
This link is also found on our church homepage and Facebook group. If you are unable to watch it live, you can view it any time after the service by following the same link.

Twe're glad you worshiped with us today. Thanks be to God! 🛨



Nicodemus had a lot of questions for Jesus. Do you have questions about what happens during worship?

Write or draw your questions below. Then ask someone who can help you find the answers!





- Today is the 4th Sunday in Lent.
- Lent is a time to prepare our hearts.
- To help us prepare, we can pray, ask questions, and read God's word.

In today's story, Nicodemus had a lot of questions for Jesus. Color in the question marks to see what Jesus is.

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"I am all that is good and right, and God sent me to light up this world."



Nicodemus had a lot of questions for Jesus. Sometimes, finding answers can be tricky.

Can you complete this maze?



## Ask It!

Nicodemus asked Jesus a lot of questions. What questions would you like to ask these people during worship?

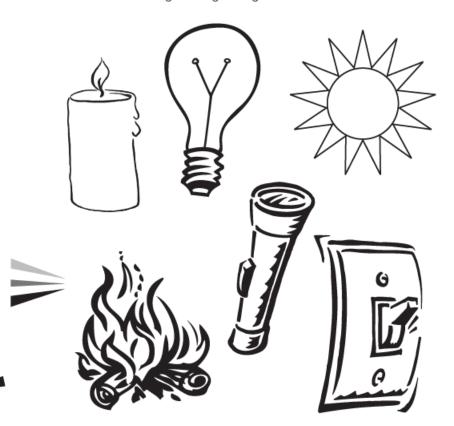
Questions for my pastor: Questions for the acolyte: Questions for the music leader: Questions for the usher: Questions for the person sitting next to me:



- Today is the 4th Sunday in Lent.
- The color of Lent is purple.
- Purple represents quiet and reflection.
- During Lent, we think about and reflect on Jesus' life.

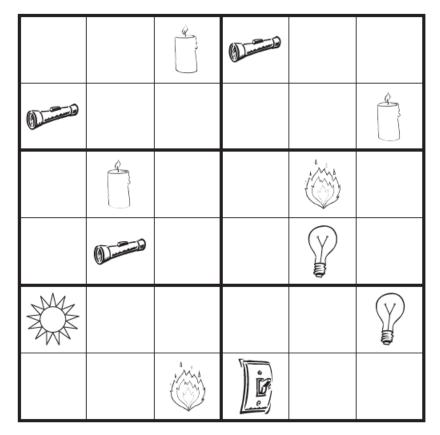
## Light It Up!

Draw some light coming out of each object. Then number these light sources in order from dimmest light to brightest light.



## Light It Up!

Try this Sudoku that uses sources of light in the squares. Remember that each light source can only show up once in each row and each column. Also, each source can only show up once in each 2x3 box.





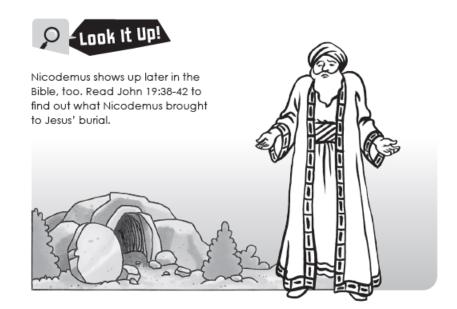


Figure out the missing letters in this memory verse. Then unscramble them to write a name for Jesus in the blanks.



"Tose who dhats	
rue come to theiht, shat	
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in Go\_\_\_\_." - John 3:21

			F