(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: God of Light, you gave us your only son so that we may experience eternal life.

We humbly give these offerings as a faithful response to this gift. Money seems so insignificant when compared to your gift of life. Yet, we place this money before you as a sacrificial gesture of our gratitude. We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

HYMN What Wondrous Love is This Blue Chalice Hymnal, #200

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Creator who wove joy throughout the whole cosmos

weaves joy within your own heart.

The Christ who experienced all our human joys and sorrows

travels right beside you.

The Spirit who whispers joy to our hearts

is present within you. You are blessed

in the name of God: The Holy Three in One.

All people: We will practice joy that transforms. Amen.

POSTLUDE

March 10, 2024 Transformative Joy – Fourth Sunday in Lent

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Mr. Kevin Crone CANDLELIGHTING Acolyte

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP -

Pastor: People of God, we gather for worship to practice joy:

not because our lives are perfect,

but because joy is resilient.

Joy is God's gift for every season

and a wellspring at the heart of our faith.

When our sins feel heavy,

Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: When floods rise and fall,

Congregation: we practice joy.
Pastor: When hope surprises us,

Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: When God sets people free,

Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: When Jesus heals us,
Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: When we are called
Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: When we endure,
Congregation: we practice joy.

Pastor: We practice joy together, *All people:* and God is with us.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All people: God of impossible things, you teach us where healing is found: in clarity, in

honesty, in the cross. You made us for goodness, not harm, and laid a path toward renewal. Show us joy in the heart of despair. Heal us to be healers in

your wounded world. Amen.

HYMN O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing Blue Chalice Hymnal, #5

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: People of God, the Merciful One already knows everything we confess. By

naming our sins and hearing words of forgiveness, we are drawn deeper into relationship with God and one another. Let's bring before God what we have done wrong and what we've failed to do, trusting that we will receive the joy of being forgiven...(Moment of silence for personal, private confession to God)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: God of abundant goodness,

All people: we have hurt those we love, those far from us, ourselves, and your creation by

what we do and by what we neglect. We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures and refuse to enjoy what you give. We are too content when injustice, violence, and hardship plague our neighbors. We ignore the gift of your presence in times both tragic and triumphant. Forgive us for what we have done and for what we have failed to do. Pour out on us the joy of your

presence and heal what we have harmed. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends, receive these joyful words: You are entirely and completely forgiven for

all of your sins. You are entirely and completely welcomed as God's beloved

child. You are released to live out God's love in a world that needs joy.

All people: Amen.

PRAISE HYMN Gloria Patri Blue Chalice Hymnal, #35

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN Amazing Grace Blue Chalice Hymnal, #546

HEBREW READING

PSALTAR READING

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 197:1-3, 17-22

Liturgist: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good,

for God's steadfast love endures forever.

All people: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,

those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Liturgist: Some were sick through their sinful ways

and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

they loathed any kind of food,

and they drew near to the gates of death.

All people: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,

and were saved from their distress;

The LORD sent out his word and healed them

and delivered them from destruction.

Liturgist: Let them thank the LORD for steadfast love,

for the wonderful works to humankind.

All people: And let us offer thanksgiving sacrifices

and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.

GOSPEL READING John 3:14-21

SERMON Rev. Laura Baker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

ANTHEM Good News (Leaf) Chancel Choir

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God has given us all that is good and right and true. What a joy to share these

gifts in the life of this community and far beyond our own reach. With a prayer of gratitude and joyful eagerness, let us return to God an offering and a re-

commitment of our time, talent, and money.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

OFFERING RESPONSE Accept, O God, the Gifts Blue Chalice Hymnal, #379