



First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

March 23, 2025

PRELUDE - Hani

Lenten Prayer

Edward Broughton

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WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus teaches us, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." But who are the others?

All: Our enemies and friends, family and strangers.

Leader: Jesus teaches us, "Be merciful as your Father is merciful." But what is mercy?

All: To act with compassion, to help without expecting anything in return.

Leader: Jesus teaches us, "Forgive, and you will be forgiven." But how do we forgive?

All: By recognizing enemies, friends, family, strangers, and ourselves as people in need of compassion.

Leader: Let us worship God, who loves and empowers us to love one another with mercy and compassion.

All: Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2024)

OPENING HYMN #549 *Where Charity and Love Prevail* (v. 1, 3, 5)

1. Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.

3. Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.

5. Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined,
we are in him made one.

Where Charity And Love Prevail

Dom Paul Benoit | Omer Westendorf

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TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**JOYS AND CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER / 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, the power, and glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

For those who are called and able, gifts and tithes can still be made through [online giving](#), by mailing them in, and by dropping them off to the church office through the secure mail slot to the left of the double door entry to the church hallway.

OFFERTORY MUSIC - Josh**O God, Beyond All Praising (THAXTED)**

Gustav Holst | Arr. Paul Tate

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DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Old 100th)

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Faithful God, our guide and sustainer, as we offer these gifts, may they bear fruit for your kingdom. In this solemn season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and renewal. Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we may grow in faith and bear witness to your grace. Use these offerings to bring hope to those in need and light to those in darkness. May we live as your fruitful servants, trusting in your abundant mercy. In the name of Christ who calls us to new life, we pray. Amen.

(Luke 13:1-9)

SCRIPTURE [Jonah 3:10—4:2 \(NRSV\)](#)

3:10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

4:1 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.

Response

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Anthem - Chancel Choir**It Is Well With My Soul**

John Ness Beck

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SCRIPTURE [Luke 6:27-38 \(NRSV\)](#)

27 “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. a Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37 “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

SERMON - Bill Lazarte

Just Mercy

CLOSING HYMN #121 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (v. 1, 3, 4)*

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.

3. For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

4. If our love were but more simple,
we should rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.

There's A Wideness In God's Mercy (Wellesley)
Frederick William Faber | Lizzie Shove Tourjee
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BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE - Hani****Sing Praise to God**

Lani Smith

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