



Pacific Beach

United Methodist Church

ONLINE WORSHIP

MARCH 14, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WE GATHER TOGETHER PRAISING GOD

Introductions and Invitations

Welcome & Welcoming Music

Call to Worship

One: Before we were born,

All: Before we took our first breath,

One: Before the week started,

All: Before the year started,

One: Before we said, "I love you,"

All: Before we said, "I'm sorry,"

One: Before we figured out who we really are,

All: Before we figured out who we want to be,

One: Before it all—

All: God loved us.

One: Unconditionally and freely,

All: Fully and honestly—

One: God loved us.

All: Again and again, this is where our story begins.

One: Let us worship God!

Hymn #645

"O Perfect Love"

Call to Confession:

As we prepare to join our voices together in the prayer of confession, I first want to invite you to watch a short video with me: *"Kid President's Letter to a Person On Their First Day Here," published on YouTube, January 23, 2014.*

Friends, as Kid President said, we were made from love, to be love, to give love.

That's just another way of saying God loved first. Our story starts with love. So join me in the prayer of confession as we strive to commit this truth to memory. Let us pray...

Prayer of Confession

God of love,

We forget the beginning of the story—

That we were made from love, to be love, to give love.

Instead of rooting our narrative in the goodness refrain of creation,

We skip ahead and find our worth at the fall,

With Cain and Abel, lost in the wilderness.

We forget that first there was you, and you are love.

We forget that out of that love you created us.

We forget that from the very first day, you loved first.

**We forget, because a love like that doesn't make sense to us.
Forgive our low self-esteem.
Forgive our resistance to love ourselves.
Forgive our hesitation to trust that even we could be made good.
And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on—from generation to generation.
Write a new beginning for us that roots our confidence in your unrelenting love.
With hope we pray, again and again. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness:

One: Family of faith, no matter what we do, where we go, or what we tell ourselves—God is love, and God is loving us.

All: Again and again, we are claimed, held, forgiven, and cared for. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—thanks be to God. Amen!

Sharing the Peace of Christ (*greet fellow worshipers in the live chat as we sing song #593 "Here I Am Lord" (v. 1, chorus)*)

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Children In Ministry

Erich Grimm-Schmitt

Music to Lift Our Spirits

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21

Message: "Lifted Up"

Lori Leopold

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

Song of Prayer (*we pray for God's guidance as we sing #3098 "Dust and Ashes" v. 1 & 2*)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Gifts (*followed by*)

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication (*we read and pray aloud together*)

Wonder-working God, use all of who we are, and all of what we have, to uproot what is unjust, and plant what is loving. Through our gifts, speak your gospel to people we may never meet. May all come to hear your call to prophetic living. Amen.

Hymn #3101

"Love Lifted Me"

Benediction

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

**All are invited to share in virtual coffee time online
via Zoom (*may require app download*).**