

Lent Lent

WELLS CHURCH

10:00am

Walter Bauerwald, Music Director

As we begin a spiritual journey through this season of Lent, it is a journey for the soul that will take us through the Wilderness of Temptation to the fellowship of the Last Supper, to the agony of the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. So, let us turn our hearts toward God who can calm our storms, restore our hope, and guide us on our journey.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK:

“By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”

Ephesians 2:8

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

“O God, our soul’s true hope, we worship you this day. May we lift to you our heart-felt praise through song, prayer and Sabbath-time spent with you. May we find rest and renewal in your presence. Grant a new awareness of your love for us and the world. Amen.”

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship as we are Lord, full of those feelings which would keep us from loving ourselves and others.

Receive us as we come and may our hearts be turned away from those feelings.

HYMN “Just As I Am”

MBW Hymn 762

- 1. Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd’st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 2. Just as I am, thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Our misunderstandings often lead us to make snap judgements of others.

Our fear and uncertainty make us build walls to keep others from getting near us.

O Lord, help us to understand the kind of love that can break every barrier down – each wall that would separate your people.

Help us to be givers and receivers of that kind of love.

Red Hymnal #484 Tune:

Almsgiving

- 1. Thou, Lord, didst once for all atone;
Thee may both Jew and Gentile own
Of their two walls the Cornerstone,
Making them one.**
- 2. Join high and low, join young and old
In love that never waxes cold;
Under one shepherd, in one fold,
Make us all one.**

Even though we are persons with walls built against our neighbors, may we meet them as friends, as we all come before your grace and mercy.

Join us, O Living Christ, by becoming the cornerstone of our lives.

Just as you overturned the tables of old, O Lord, overturn the barriers that we place between ourselves as your people.

Make the stranger like a friend, the widow and widower like a mother and father, the convict like a child and the hero like a neighbor.

We struggle with our difference. Our world is wounded, O Lord, and we need your passion to be a sign for us.

The wounded world is in need of your balm. Help us to be healed. May our barriers be overturned as we minister in your home.

HERRNHUT [11 A]

1. **By thy reconciling love
every stumbling block remove;
Each to each unite, endear;
come and spread they banner here.**
2. **Let us each for others care,
each the other's burden bear.
To thy church a pattern give,
showing how believers live.**
3. **May it to the world appear
that we thy disciples are
By our loving mutually,
by our Christian unity.**

Amen.

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE

Old Testament: Numbers 21:4-9
New Testament: Ephesians 2:1-10
Gospel: John 3:1-21

SPECIAL MUSIC

SERMON **“For God So Loved ...”**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Response: Hear Our Prayer, O Lord MBW #825

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

HYMN: “There is an Alleluia” **Tune MBW #511: Aurelia**

1. **There is an Alleluia still waiting to be heard,
to voice in desp'rate moment, an echo of God's Word
of comfort and of healing, of peace and promise, too;
of justice joined with mercy, of faith once more renewed.**

- 2. No Easter Alleluia with trumpets and loud hymns
of resurrection glory expressed in praiseful din.
It comes, just barely spoken, when faith must look within
at life's deep, painful journey; at love grown strangely thin.**
- 3. This quiet Alleluia is full of depth and awe;
a blessing to the Lord when life is cold and raw;
sometimes expressing anger, sometimes our honest fear,
profound and full of conflict, a prayer just God will hear.**
- 4. We pray this Alleluia when other prayers depart.
It goes from us in blessing straight to God's loving hear.
So bless the Lord, my soul, in whispered, holy word,
a sacred Alleluia still waiting to be heard.**

Text: John T. Hicks ©2017

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE