

Sunday Service: February 21, 2021 (First Sunday of Lent)

“What does the sea have to teach us?”



Zoom service starts promptly at 10 am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84841981079?pwd=OG1TMThyZFFQZ1Q0dStpZlJCdURUUT09>

Lent–Easter 2021 Theme: Going Deep

Nearly a year ago we entered the world of isolation and virtual connection with which all of us are now familiar. Suddenly the wilderness of Lent has become all too real, as we were stripped of our usual resources, surroundings, activities, and circles of relationship. During this time our world has experienced both deep grief and invitations to a new spaciousness of time, as we needed to release so much of what usually fills our lives.

In the Scriptures and the traditions of Lent, we see a scrubbing away of the excess to get to the core of our Christian journeys and of ourselves. The call to go deeper can be frightening or overwhelming when we feel we are not ready and do not know what we will find. We keep much of our pain in our depths. But only from these depths can the voice of God reach us and transform us.

FOCUS for First Sunday of Lent

The voice of God pierces the deep, calling us to deep relationship. With the floodwaters behind us and the waters of baptism holding us, our relationship with God establishes our identity with other people and the world we live in.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude



Call to Worship

One: God, we are here at the water's edge, casting off from shore

Many: into unknown waters.

One: With fear and trembling, we drop our oars,

Many: letting them go, trusting the sea.

One: God, we trust the signs of your covenant:

the ark through the water, the waters of baptism,

Many: the bow in the clouds and the dove from the heavens.

All: We call to you as you called us deeper into steadfast love.

"God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform. He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm." — William Cowper

Opening Prayer

Opening Song

Prayer of Confession

Many: Deep calls to deep. We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

One: We confess when we have stayed too close to the surface, avoiding you, avoiding our neighbors.

We confess when we have felt in over our heads.

Needing you, needing our neighbors.

(Silence..)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Many: Calling us to deep relationship. We come to you, God.

Congregational Singing

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures (Genesis 9:8-13, Mark 1:9-20)

Genesis 9:8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12 God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.



Mark 1:9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I

am well pleased." ...16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Message: *"What Does the Sea have to Teach us?"*

In his younger years Bill Steffenhagen received his engineering degree from the New York State Maritime College on Long Island, NY. And though his maritime career was short, he did have quite a few experiences at sea. Let's see how these experiences relate to our Lenten theme of "going deep."

"Ideals are like the stars: we never reach them, but like the mariners of the sea, we chart our course by them." — Carl Schurz

3. RESPONDING TO GOD



Response

Joys and Concerns

Sending Song

Sending Blessing

The divine calls for us to move beyond the shallows of our lives into deep relationship. God requires our trust and vulnerability as we reach out to a neighbor, bursting the surface bubbles of our lives and striving for deeper understanding. Go into the week before you, reaching out for a story far beyond your own, in love. Amen

“With every drop of water you drink, every breath you take, you're connected to the sea. No matter where on Earth you live. Most of the oxygen in the atmosphere is generated by the sea.” — Sylvia Earle

(Note from Martha: sounds like God to me)

“We live on an island surrounded by a sea of ignorance. As our island of knowledge grows, so does the shore of our ignorance.” — John Archibald Wheeler