

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

10:00 AM

Prelude: Oh, How He Loves You and Me

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jonathon Kosec

*** Call to Worship**

Pastor: Lord God, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children.

People: Strengthen our faith in your promises.

Pastor: Gather all peoples into your arms,

People: Shelter us with your mercy and shower us with your love.

Pastor: As we break bread and share the cup together this morning,

People: may Christ be present with us, and may the Spirit bind us together as Christ's body in this world, Amen.

* Hymn # 190. In the Cross of Christ I Glory

* Invocation

Responsive Reading #806 Pastor reads, congregation responds with indented verse.

Offering * Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

How Great Thou Art

Prayers of the Church

- A Moment of Silent Prayer
- The Pastoral Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #281. Break Thou the Bread of Life

Scripture Lesson

John 3:1-18

Hal Bates

Special Music

Fill My Cup Lord

Laurie Palmer

Today's Message: " This is How Much God Loves the World"

Rev. Jonathon
Kosec

Confession of Faith: The Apostle's Creed. (Selection 783)

Holy Communion

- Invitation to the Supper

- Words of Institution
- Prayer of Consecration
- Distribution of the Bread and the Cup
- The Communion Charge

* Closing Hymn # 188 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

*** Benediction**

Postlude: His Love Endures Forever

*** You may choose to stand or remain seated.**

CHURCH LIFE

REMEMBER IN PRAYER.

Linda Cross mother dealing with health issues.

David Olund upcoming by-pass surgery.

People who are struggling for direction in their lives.

BIBLE STUDY Tuesday 10:00 am B3 card room next to the church office.

FOOD DONATIONS - Next Sunday is the food collection for the Salvation Army. Any and all canned foods and dry goods will be appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

Ron Davis new address 1015 S. Shepherd Apt 628, Houston, TX, 77019



SPRING FORWARD -Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 2:00 A.M. On Saturday night, clocks are set forward one hour .

BIRTHDAYS

Ron Johnson 3/10, Jean Aronson 3/11

Attendance Last Week:

In-Person- 77

Scripture Reading

John 3: 1-18 (The Message)

3 ¹⁻² There was a man of the Pharisee sect, Nicodemus, a prominent leader among the Jews. Late one night he visited Jesus and said, "Rabbi, we all know you're a teacher straight from God. No one could do all the God-pointing, God-revealing acts you do if God weren't in on it." ³ Jesus said, "You're absolutely right. Take it from me: Unless a person is born from above, it's not possible to see what I'm pointing to—to God's kingdom." ⁴ "How can anyone," said Nicodemus, "be born who has already been born and grown up? You can't re-enter your mother's womb and be born again. What are you saying with this 'born-from-above' talk?" ⁵⁻⁶ Jesus said, "You're not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the 'wind-hovering-over-the-water' creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. When you look at a baby, it's just that: a body you can look at and touch. But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can't see and touch—the Spirit—and becomes a living spirit. ⁷⁻⁸ "So don't be so surprised when I tell you that you have to be 'born from above'—out of this world, so to speak. You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it's headed next. That's the way it is with everyone 'born from above' by the wind of God, the Spirit of God." ⁹ Nicodemus asked, "What do you mean by this? How does this happen?" ¹⁰⁻¹² Jesus said, "You're a respected teacher of Israel and you don't know these basics? Listen carefully. I'm speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay. Yet instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with questions. If I tell you things that are plain as the hand before your face and you don't believe me, what use is there in telling you of things you can't see, the things of God?" ¹³⁻¹⁵ "No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life. ¹⁶⁻¹⁸ "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.



EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

**OF
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