

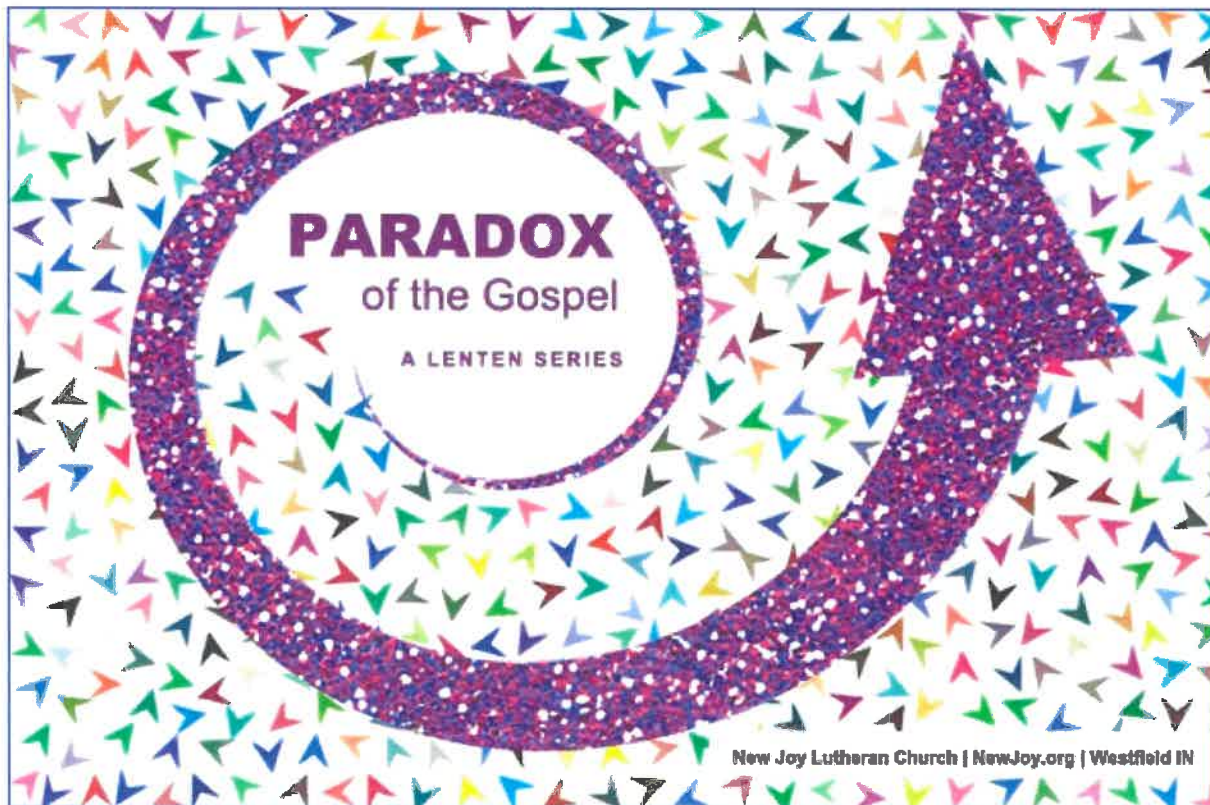


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Ministers: The People of New Joy
Pastor: The Rev. Chris Duckworth

A Congregation of Welcome, Grace, Faith and Promise

March 14, 2021



Fourth Sunday in Lent

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We're Glad You're Joining Us This Morning!

Praying the Psalms

Now that we have returned to livestream—only for worship, we are adding a time of prayerful reflection to our Sundays together. Join us via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am for Praying the Psalms. The link can be found in the News to Know emails. Some of you may remember that several years ago Jessicah Duckworth led us with this weekly devotion in which we read and prayed a psalm each week prior to worship. Please mark your calendar and join us before worship beginning next Sunday.

Join us after worship at 10:45am for a **Sunday Morning Zoom Fellowship Meeting**. **GET THE NEW LINK IN FRIDAY'S NEWS TO KNOW EMAIL.** It is a great time to speak with our interns, Cory and Emily, and to catch up with many of our Partners! It is the next best thing to hanging out in the narthex and sanctuary after worship! You will find the link to this meeting in Friday's News to Know.

Join us each Wednesday at 1pm for our **Midweek Bible Study**. The link to the Zoom meeting will be in Tuesday's News to Know. All are welcome to join in! The upcoming Sunday scripture will be discussed.

Lenten Prayer Gatherings

We will be coming together on Zoom every Wednesday for prayer, fellowship, and reflection. Times: 6:30 am; 1:00 pm; 7:00 pm; and 10:00 pm. Come when it works best for you. Camera on or off, as you're most comfortable. The Zoom link will be in Tuesday's News to Know email. We will use the same link, meeting ID/password for each prayer time.

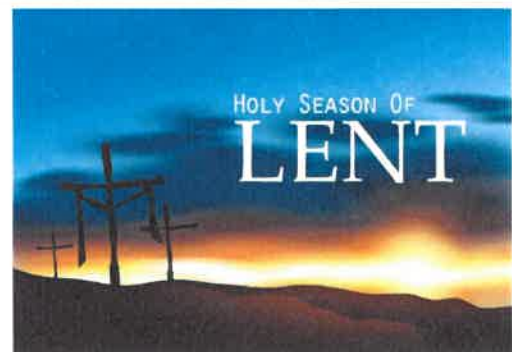
Spiritual Walk—Friday, March 19th—1:00 pm

Nancy Dickerson has arranged for New Joy Partners to be able to take a spiritual walk through the beautiful Fort Harrison State Park this coming Friday. The walk will follow the paved path loop and is approximately 2.25 miles with some gentle hills. The walk will be lead by Dylan Allison, the park's Interpretive Naturalist. If you are interested in going, you may contact Nancy Dickerson at n-dickerson@att.net. There is more information in Tuesday's News to Know.

Open Doors Spring Cleaning Basket collection—kitchen towels

New Joy is currently collecting kitchen towels to be put in the Open Doors Spring Cleaning Baskets. We have agreed to provide 100 towels—we currently have 43 towels collected! Please bring your donation to New Joy by the end of March. Thanks!

The Church Still
Gathers



Prelude

Words of Welcome

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Opening Prayer

Apostolic Greeting and Baptismal Blessing

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and
the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Beautiful Things (ACS #925)

All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change, at all

All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found?
Could a garden come up from this ground, at all?

Refrain: You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

All around,
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found, in you

Refrain, refrain

Prayer of Lament

P: This Lent we cry out, “How long, O Lord? How long?”
Indeed, this pandemic has felt like a year-long Lent in itself,
a season of sacrifice, austerity, loss, and reflection.
And yet, in the paradox of faith,
we find God’s holy love, promise, and beauty
in the dark valley of this season,
trusting that as we continue our Lenten journey our Lord is with us,
leading us to the still waters of salvation and the daylight of resurrection
dawn.

Silence for reflection

AM: Gracious God, by day and night we pour out our prayer to you.
We are crying out for justice, yearning for what is right, longing for
your peace.
Come quickly to help us, O God; save those who call upon your name.

AM: We weep for the victims of COVID 19,
and of illnesses and deaths that were contributed to
by the strain on the medical care system during the pandemic;
and we your people cry: **How long, O Lord?**

AM: We long for a day when we can worship together again in person,
when schools and workplaces and other public spaces can re-open
without concern for this disease;
and we your people cry: **How long, O Lord?**

AM: We worry for those who have lost work and pay during the pandemic,
for children who have missed out on school, graduations, and camps,
for businesses that have closed;
and we your people cry: **How long, O Lord?**

AM: We grieve at the continued divides in our nation
across political and social lines,
divisions that risk doing real harm to our families, community, and
country;
and we your people cry: **How long, O Lord?**

AM: Hear now, O God, the laments of our hearts,
spoken out loud in our homes or in the silence of our hearts:

silence

AM: And we your people cry: **How long, O Lord?**

AM: We don't cry out to the Lord in vain. We know that God hears our
cries, replenishes our strength and stirs up our hope.

AM: For the baptized this is a time to take strength in our baptism, to recall that we have been joined to Christ's death in baptism, and that if we have been joined to a death like his, we will certainly be joined to a resurrection like his.

AM: And for the unbaptized, this is a time to discern a life in Christ, to inquire about and interrogate the faith of this congregation, to seek here a Living Word that defies the brokenness of this world, and a people who look for signs of our Savior's promised reign of justice, mercy, and peace.

AM: Let us mark ourselves with the cross of Christ, with water if available, as a remembrance of – and with anticipation for – God's promise in our lives and in this world.

AM: To you, O God, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

Song of Baptismal Remembrance

Wade in the Water (ELW 459)

Refrain: Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

(See that host all dressed in white,)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(the leader looks like the Israelite.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

(Look over yonder, what do I see?)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴They marched from Mount Hor on the Reed Sea road around the land of Edom. The people became impatient on the road. ⁵The people spoke against God and Moses: “Why did you bring us up from Egypt to kill us in the desert, where there is no food or water. And we detest this miserable bread!” ⁶So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people and they bit the people. Many of the Israelites died.

⁷The people went to Moses and said, “We’ve sinned, for we spoke against the LORD and you. Pray to the LORD so that he will send the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous snake and place it on a pole. Whoever is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹Moses made a bronze snake and placed it on a pole. If a snake bit someone, that person could look at the bronze snake and live.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 3:14-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. ¹⁶God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. ¹⁷God didn’t send his Son into the world to

judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son.

¹⁹ "This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. ²⁰ All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. ²¹ Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for light,
we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth,
we turn to you.

Make us your own,
your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace,
our world is troubled.

Longing for hope,
many despair.

Your word alone
has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

Many the gifts,
many the people,
many the hearts that
yearn to belong.
Let us be servants
to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

Sharing God's Peace

We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you" now, in the middle of our worship service. We wish for each other that we'd truly experience God's presence and peace.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Announcements

Mission Statement

AM: In person, in spirit, and in truth, the church still gathers.

C: **New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture a transforming faith, and live God's promise.**

Prayer

The Assisting Minister leads the congregation in the Prayers of the Church, giving thanks to God, and asking God's blessings for the church, the world, and all those in need. After each prayer petition, the congregation responds, "Your mercy is great."

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

WE GO OUT WITH GOD'S JOY

Blessing

P: You are what God made you to be;
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you + that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.
C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

Sending Song – Your Love Never Fails

Nothing can separate
Even if I ran away
Your love never fails
I know I still make mistakes but
You have new mercies for me ev'ryday
Your love never fails

Chorus: (And) You stay the same through the ages
Your love never changes
There may be pain in the night
But joy comes in the morning
And when the oceans rage
I don't have to be afraid
Because I know that You love me
(Your love never fails)

The wind is strong and the water's deep
But I'm not alone here in these open seas
Your love never fails
The chasm is far too wide
I never thought I'd reach the other side
Your love never fails. *Chorus*

Bridge: You make all things
Work together for my good
You make all things
Work together for my good

Chorus

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New Joy Lutheran Church: A Spirited Community

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture a transforming faith, and live God's promise.

Extend Radical Welcome

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that welcomes, values, accepts, and nurtures all people wherever they are in their relationship with God.

Share Generous Grace

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that freely proclaims that forgiveness, mercy, love, and salvation are free gifts of God's grace.

Nurture Transforming Faith

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that receives faith as a gift of God that transforms us and the world.

Live God's Promise

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that boldly lives in our Lord's promise of renewed and everlasting life.



About New Joy Lutheran Church

New Joy Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is a community of faith moved by God's Spirit. We come to New Joy from different places, with different life and faith experiences. What draws us together is the center – our Lord Jesus Christ – who welcomes us into a common life and transforming faith, and sends us out to share generous grace and boldly live God's promise.

