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**Leading our community into a deep connection in Christ**

**Worship Service for February 28, 2021 at 11 AM**

**Welcome**

**Opening Song:**Faithful

Faithful, forever You are faithful.
Father to the fatherless
You uphold the one who feels forsaken.
You are faithful, God

Faithful, forever You are faithful.
Lover of the wounded heart
You defend the poor and the forgotten.
You are faithful, God

Chorus:
And I will sing to the maker of Heaven and Earth
God, You reign forever and Your love will endure
Faithful and true is the name of the Lord.
You are faithful, God

Faithful, forever You are faithful.
Shelter for the fragile soul
You lift us up, You hold us all together.
You are faithful, God

Chorus

You are there in every season of my soul.
You are there, You're the anchor that will hold
You are there in the valley of the shadows.
You are faithful, God

Repeat

And I will sing to the maker of Heaven and Earth
God, You reign forever and Your love will endure
Faithful and true is the name of the Lord.
You are faithful, God.
You are faithful, God

**Invocation**

**Confession and Forgiveness:**

P: Come into the presence of the Lord our God.

C: Have mercy, O Lord. If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand; but if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(a time of silence to reflect and personally confess our sins)*

P: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Let us confess our sin before the Lord. Let us confess together.

C: Heavenly Father, we confess that we are sinners.  We have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have not loved you with our whole heart and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your punishment.  For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.  Amen.

P: The Lord is gracious and merciful. He promises to forgive our sins. Therefore, upon this, your confession, as a called and ordained servant of the Lord, in the stead and by the command of my Lord, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**Song of Praise and Thanksgiving:** Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm 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!

Chorus:
My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, My Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood his mercy reigns.
Unending love, amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Chorus x 2

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who call’d me here below,
Will be forever mine...
Will be forever mine... You are forever mine.

**Epistle Reading -**Romans 5:6–11

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**Epistle or Gospel Reading** - Mark 8:27–38

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?

For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**Children's Message**

**Sermon Hymn***–*By Grace I’m Saved

By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain;
By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit,
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav’nly throne.

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown,
Since I am saved by grace alone.

**Sermon** - " Blessing a Sinner Who Still Sins"

Genesis 17:1-7, 15–16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you...

And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

**Prayers**

**Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer**

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

**Words of Institution**

**Peace**

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

C: And also with you.

P: We greet each other in the peace of Christ.

**Distribution**

**Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Offering**

**Closing Song:**Reckless Love

Before I spoke a word, You were singing over meYou have been so, so good to meBefore I took a breath you breathed your life into me You have been so, so kind to me

Chorus:
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God
Oh it chases me down. Fights till I'm found. Leaves the ninety-nine
Oh I couldn't earn it. I don't deserve it. Still, you give yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God

When I was your foe, still Your love fought for me
You have been so, so Good to me
When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me
You have been so, so Kind to me

Chorus:
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God
Oh it chases me down. Fights till I'm found. Leaves the ninety-nine
Oh I couldn't earn it. I don't deserve it. Still, you give yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God

There's no shadow you won't light up
Mountain you won't climb up coming after me
There's no wall you won't kick down
Lie you won't tear down coming after me

Chorus

**Upcoming Events**

**Wednesday, March 3 - Mid-Week Lent Devotional Service**Online – Facebook, YouTube, FaithWesleyChapel.com

**Thursday, March 4, 7am & 7pm - Tamp Lutherans Pray**
TampaLutheransPray.com
Submit prayer requests on the site by Wednesday

**Saturday, March 6, 11:30am - 2pm Youth Event - Escape Room**
Imagine Escape Rooms https://breakoutgames.com/tampa
2830 E Bearss Ave. Tampa, FL 33613
Cost $24/person

**Saturday, March 6, 7pm - Congregational Meeting about a New Facility**"Exploring Our Options"Zoom

**www.FaithWesleyChapel.com**

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