

Insert for Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
A Service of Light (Holden Evening Prayer)  
for

THE SENT: God's Church Deployed

First Lesson Genesis 9:8-17

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 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. 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."

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: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

*Silence for meditation*

One The Light shines in the darkness ...

All ...and the darkness has not overcome it.

Psalm 25 (All Sing) To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul

1. To you, my God, I lift up my soul;  
my spirit seeks refuge in you.  
From all sin and disgrace  
keep me sheltered by your grace,  
for I trust that your promise is true.
2. O set my feet on pathways of peace  
and teach me to walk in your ways.  
Let your truth be my light,  
my salvation shining bright;  
I will serve you the length of my days.
3. Remember, God, your mercy and love,  
forgive me for times when I fall;

for your mercy is great  
to the humble ones who wait,  
to the lowly who answer love's call.

4. The path of God is love without end  
to pilgrims who walk in God's ways.  
Teach our hearts, make us wise;  
for to you we turn our eyes.  
We will serve you the length of our days.

*Silence for meditation*

One God of grace and mercy, you are the refuge of all you seek you, you are the shelter of all who wait in hope for you. Set our feet firmly on your pathway, and guide us by the light of your truth, so that we might faithfully follow you all the days of our lives. We ask this through Jesus, the Christ.

All Amen

Second Lesson 1 Peter 3:18-22

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST PETER

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you - not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*Silence for meditation*

One The Light shines in the darkness ...

All ...and the darkness has not overcome it.

Ash Wednesday Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Weekly Collect

God of the wilderness, your Son battled with the powers of darkness and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these forty days to grow in wisdom and prayer, so that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.