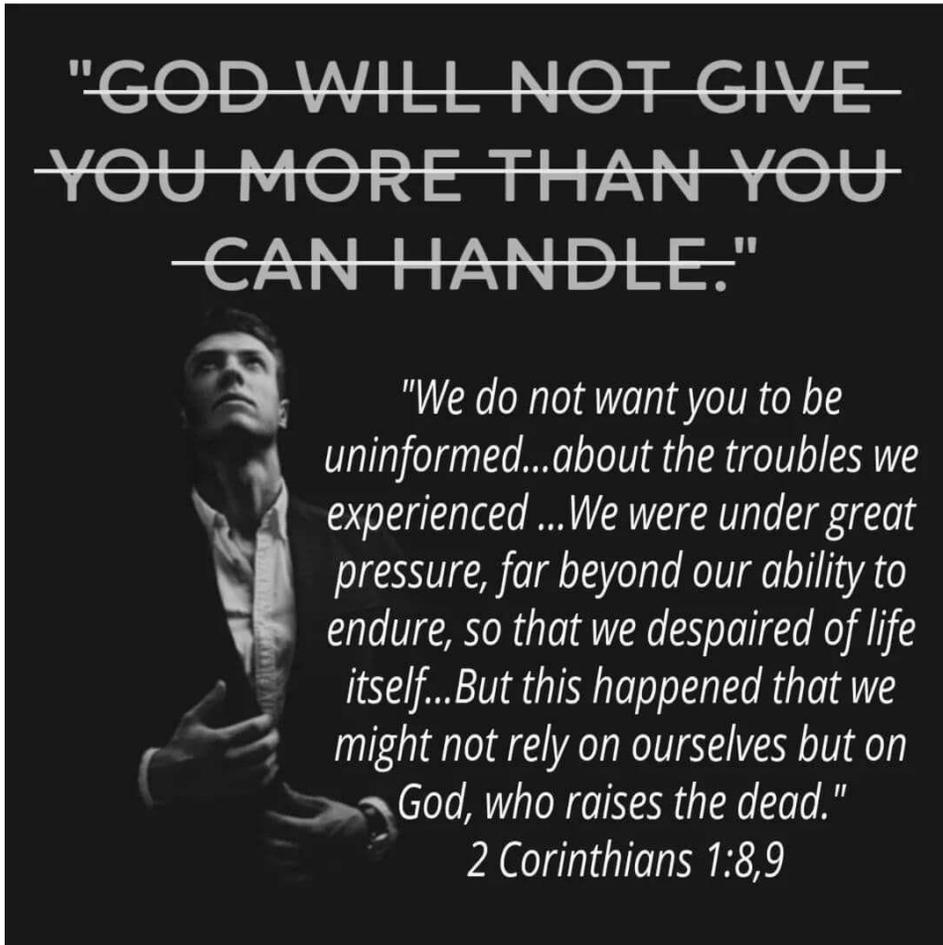


Milliken Presbyterian Church



"The Real Promise"
First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

"Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul" (Psalm 25:1. On this first Sunday in Lent, may our time in God's presence empower us to trust him throughout the coming days. Welcome to worship!

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

We come, trusting in God's mercy and love, longing to know and to learn more about God's ways.

We come, to be guided in the ways of God's truth - longing to experience the joy of God's salvation.

We come, at the beginning of Lent, longing to respond to God's steadfast love, as we pray:

Creator of all, we lift up our voices, our hearts, and our lives to You in praise. Uphold the weary, for whom praise may be very difficult. Humble the strong, for whom "alleluia" may be too easy. Continue to form us into Your new creation, that we might praise You more fully. Lead us, O God, to do what is right in your eyes and teach us to follow the humble way of Jesus, in our praise, our prayers, and dedication. Amen

Hymn

God is So Good

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good,
He's so good to me.

He cares for me, He cares for me, He cares for me,
He's so good to me.

God answers prayer, God answers prayer, God answers prayer,
He's so good to me.

Call to Confession

Who is in a position to condemn. No one but Christ. Christ died for us and rose for us that we might overcome sin and know the forgiving love of God. Let us come and confess our sin together.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, as we begin our Lenten journey, we so want to follow Jesus, but we confess our reluctance to face the temptations the journey might hold. We confess that we are tempted to wish for miracles simply to make life easier, instead of seeking Your ways and Your will. We admire the difficult and risky journey that Jesus took, challenging those systems which put conditions on God's love. We confess that we want our journeys to be devout but not too daring; comfortable and not too threatening. We cherish the faithfulness and humility of Jesus, yet we confess our fear of walking in Jesus' way of obedience - the way of the cross. Come to us and uphold us with Your strength and love. Forgive us our pride and help us to seek Your ways, Your strength, and Your help in all things!

A time of silent prayer... In Christ's name we pray. **Amen!**

Assurance of Pardon

based on 1 Peter 3:18

Hear the good news. "Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God."

We proclaim and celebrate: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

The Hearing of God's Word

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 37: 23-28, 31, 39-40

The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand. I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing. Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever. For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake His faithful ones.

The law of their God is in their hearts; their feet do not slip.

The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; He is their stronghold in time of trouble. The Lord helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in Him.

Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 10: 11-13

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

The Message

The Real Promise

Rev. Jan Brooks

Responding to the Word

Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal Home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne, still may we dwell secure
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

O God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guide while life shall last, and our eternal Home.

Prayers of the People, including the Lord's Prayer

The Sending of God's People

Charge and Benediction

Let us go into the world serving others with the love of Christ!

Postlude

Psalm 119: 116-117, 132

Sustain me, my God, according to Your promise, and I will live; do not let my hopes be dashed. Uphold me, and I will be delivered; I will always have regard for Your decrees.

Turn to me and have mercy on me, as You always do to those who love Your name.