

Worship Service “Open the Eyes of our Hearts”

Guest Pastor Rev. Carol Mason

February 25, 2024 – Lent 2, Year B

Romans 4:16-17, 23-25 NRSVA / Mark 8:31-38 NRSVA

Prelude

played by church musician Annie Center,
used and reported under CCLI Streaming License 20261246

Opening Music (video)

[**Jesus you have called us \(I Will Follow\)**](#)

Written by Joel Payne,
CCLI SONG #6139173, Copyrights Joel Payne - RESOUNDworship.org (Admin.
by Jubilate Hymns Ltd) Posted on YouTube by Resound Worship, used and
reported under CCLI Streaming License 20261246

Welcome / Announcements

I'm glad to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church. We seek to welcome all of God's children to join us in bearing witness to the radically transforming power of God's love. As we gather today, let's share the joy and peace of Christ with each other by greeting each other as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Now that you are back in your seats, please stand in body or spirit as you are able and join together in singing the opening hymn

Opening Hymn

"Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing" 12

Call To Worship

One We come to worship this morning from different places.

All O God, do not be far from us.

One We come to worship this morning for different reasons.

All O God, do not be far from us.

One We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.

All O God, do not be far from us.

One We hear Jesus' words with different ears.

All O God, do not be far from us.

One "Deny yourselves."

All O God, do not be far from us.

One "Take up your cross."

All O God, do not be far from us.

One "Follow me."

All O God, we thank you for drawing near to us in this place, in our lives.

Amen.

Invocation

Gracious and loving God, You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We have joined our hearts in this time of worship, for we remember all You have done for us and all You will continue to do. In this time and space, quiet our minds, slow our hearts, and remind us that You are with us, now and always. We give this time and space to be reminded of Your love and grace given to us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Epistle Reading

Romans 4:16-17, 23-25 NRSVA

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,

who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

A Time of Prayer

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Today we come together as a community to share together our joys and concerns, and lift them to God in prayer.

Pastoral Prayer Prayer by pastor

Hymn ***"O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"*** **357**

Gospel Reading **Mark 8:31-38 NRSVA**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Message Sermon Title: ***"Open the Eyes of our Hearts"***

Guest Pastor Rev. Carol Mason

Call to Serve

As we continue to seek to become a place of compassion and support to our community, we ask that you give prayerful consideration as to how you may support our efforts. If you would like to make a donation, there are envelopes by the collection plate at the entrance. Online donations can be made through our website. Prayers and suggestions are also welcome! Thanks again for all your support, and may we continue to work together to keep being a place of ministry that seeks to promote the growth of God's shalom around us. Today, as we listen to Annie play, let's reflect on how we celebrate our faith, and how we might use our gifts and talents to inspire others to do the same.

A Time of Reflection - Annie Center

Prayer of Thanksgiving

People of God, hear this good news. God's covenant with us is true. God is faithful even when we fail. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us the gift of faith and makes us righteous. Believe in the good news that you are set free to live as children of God. **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Hymn *"Bless'd Be the Tie That Binds"* **421**

Celebration of Membership

Welcoming New Member Kelly McAvoy

All: We welcome you with joy and affection into this household of faith. We pledge to you our help, our prayers, our concern, that we may All increase in the knowledge and love of God. We trust God for strength to follow with you in Christ's way, keeping together the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Amen

Benediction *Closing prayer*

Postlude played by church musician Annie Center,