

Reprint & Podcast/Streaming Under
OneLicense.Net #A709489 and CCLI License #11502929
FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH KENYON

February 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent



AGAIN & AGAIN – GOD MEETS US. God meets Jesus at the water before he is tempted in the wilderness. God meets us at the water's edge and names us Beloved. God meets us always where we are – in the midst of doubt, eagerness or weariness.

RINGING OF BELL

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God meets us in the night –

**All: before the sun rises,
before the wound heals,
before there are answers,
before there is closure.**

L: God meets us in the light –

**All: where joy is effervescent,
where laughter is contagious,
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
and where people gather around the table.**

L: God meets us at the threshold –

**All: at the edge of the water,
at the beginning of the wilderness,
at the start of something new,
on the edge of faith.**

L: And if God meets us in all those places,
then surely God meets us in between –

All: staying with us through the wilderness.

L: We are not alone. God is all around.

All: Let us worship the eternal God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Again and again, God meets us where we are.
God's love knows no bounds, which is hard for us to understand
and easy for us to forget.
Therefore, in confession we remember together
that we are not alone.
And in a unified voice, we once again
ask for God's grace in that holy reminder.
Family of faith, we make confession together.
God, who meets us where we are –
there is nowhere we can go that you are not.

**All: You were with Jesus at his baptism.
You were with him in the wilderness,
and even in between, you were there,
saying aloud, "This is my beloved."**

L: We know that you are with us too –
in the good, the bad, and everything in between –
but so often we act like we are alone.

**All: Instead of coming to you with our hurts,
we hold it in or cast it onto others.
Instead of coming to you with our joy,
we credit ourselves and offer you nothing.**

L: How can we long for a deeper relationship with you
while living like you are nowhere to be found?

**All: Forgive our self-centered ways.
Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.**

L: You are our God who meets us where we are:

**All: before and behind, above and below,
within and around. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

L: Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this:
God is here. God sees you. God knows you.
God meets you at the edge of every new beginning,
and God calls you beloved.

**All: We are washed by the water.
We are called beloved.
Thanks be to God for a love like this.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Holy God,

All: If I am honest, faith often feels like water in my hands. No matter how hard I try to hold onto it, some of it always slips through—like droplets of truth running down my wrists, back toward my heart. This human inability to hold onto you leaves me thirsty for more. And even if we do not have a sky-parting moment of clarity, ringing in our ears, we trust that you are near. Amen.

READING: GENESIS 9:8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and 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. ¹¹I 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." ¹²God 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: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I 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. ¹⁶When 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." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

GOSPEL READING: MARK 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

MESSAGE

MUSIC: *Thy Holy Wings* ELW #613 Katie Van Epps

- 1 *Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.*
- 2 *Oh, let me nestle near thee within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.*
- 3 *Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here,
bigger than the sky and in the smallest of details,
all at once and in every moment.**

**We believe that God meets us where we are –
in heartbreak and high hopes,
around crowded tables and in quiet homes,
in joy and in suffering,
in loneliness and in connection,
in sanctuaries and living rooms,
on walks and in waiting rooms.**

**We believe that nothing we do or leave undone
can distance us from God's love.**

God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in.

**Again and again, God meets us where we are
and invites us into wholeness.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

SHARING OF THE PEACE—OFFERING OF GIFTS

PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

L: As you leave this space —
may your mouth speak of God's goodness,
may your arms hold those in need,
may your feet walk toward justice,
may your heart trust its worth,
may your soul dance in God's grace,
And may this be your rhythm-

**All: Again and again and again,
until God's promised day.**

L: In the name of the God, the Beloved, and the Holy Spirit,
go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS

PASTORS: Julie Rogness ASSISTANT: Bill Lewis ORGANIST: Tammy Hanson SOLOIST: Katie VanEpps
TECH CREW: Jim Braaten, Steve Johnson, Bill Lewis, Dan Rogness, Holly Aldorfer, Heidi Haugen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TEXTS: USED WITH PERMISSION: *Again and Again* – A SANCTIFIED ART by Sarah Are © 2020 | sanctifiedart.org.

Reprint & Podcast/Streaming Under OneLicense.Net #A709489 - -

HYMN: *Thy Holy Wings* ELW# 613 SKU #25950 Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, St. 1&3; Gracia Grindal, b.1943,
st.2; tr. composite. TEXT © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., MUSIC: Swedish Folk Tune, ARR. © 2006 Augsburg
Fortress

CONNECTIONS

WEBSITE: flickenyon.org FACEBOOK: **First Evangelical Lutheran Kenyon MN**

OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurchKenyon>

Pastor E-Mail: firstpastorkenyon@gmail.com Pastor Phone: 952-994-1201

Church E-Mail: firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com Church Office Phone: 789-5261

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

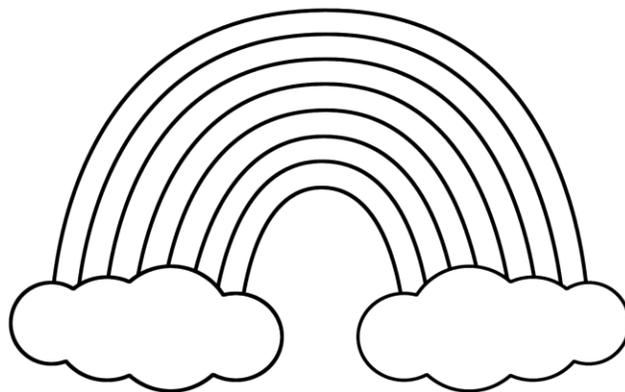
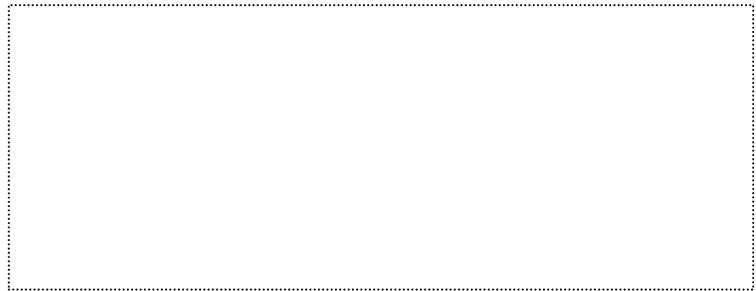
Sid Strandemo, Faye Marcuson, Ron Grose, Barb Schaller, Lila Cole, Ione Overby, Lynn Fromm (sister of Ed Fletcher), Eloyce Berg, the Family of Teresa Pittman (daughter of Betty Redfield).

CALENDAR

Sun/Feb 21	7:00 pm	AA
Wed/Feb 24		<i>Pre-Recorded Lenten Worship</i>
Thur/Feb 25	7:00 pm	AA
Sun/Feb 27	9:00 am	<i>Pre-Recorded "Now the Feast"</i>
Sun/Feb 28	7:00 pm	AA

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 Forest St., Kenyon, MN 55946

Sunday, February 21
Worship Bulletin



"I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be
a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

GENESIS 9:13