



### John 3:1-2a

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night...

† Bulletin Cover Art: Sophia Marcus

### Worship Participants

Pastor: Joel Kok ✦ Piano: Jill Friend ✦ Guitar: Joe Bartels, Rob Haan  
 Sound: Doug DeBoer ✦ Projection: Dane Hibma ✦ CCLI #493458 ✦ OneLicense #A-721171

## Gathering

Welcome

Call to Worship

Is the Father with us?

**The Father is with us!**

Is Christ among us?

**Christ is among us!**

Is the Spirit here?

**The Spirit is here!**

This is our God:

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

We are God's people.

**We are redeemed.**

\*Song: "Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

**1. Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend;  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?  
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.**

*Chorus*

**You are the One that we praise, You are the One we adore.  
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,  
oh, our hearts always hunger for.**

**2. Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;  
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way,  
oh, we hopelessly lost the way. (to chorus)**

**3. Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own;  
here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne,  
oh, we're falling before Your throne. (to chorus)**

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\*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

\*Song: "All Glory Be to God on High"

LUYH 542

**3. I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ransom.**

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Response of Praise and Prayer

Let us thank God for the holy mystery we have received.

**Eternal God, in Christ you give yourself to us.**

**By your Spirit, grant that we can go into your world  
and give ourselves to you and others.**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Sending

\*Song: "My Friends, May You Grow in Grace"

LUYH 938

\*Benediction

\*Song of Response: "Gracious Spirit, Hear Our Pleading" LUYH 320:1,2,4

\*We Profess Our Faith: The Apostles' Creed LUYH 783A

We Share Our Joys & Concerns and Pray for Each Other

## Table

The Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

*(Prayer continues...)*

The Institution (I Corinthians 11)

Prayer of Consecration

Jesus says, "I am the bread of life."

**Lord, when we eat this bread and drink the cup,  
we proclaim your death, we experience your presence,  
and we anticipate your coming in glory.**

*(Prayer continues...)*

The Communion: "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" LUYH 627:1-3  
"How Deep the Father's Love"

**1. How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure  
that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away  
as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.**

**2. Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.**

*(continued on next page)*

## Renewal

Prayer of Confession: "Have Mercy on Me"

***Have mercy on me. Have mercy on me.***

***O Lord, have mercy. O Lord, have mercy.***

***O, help my unbelief. O, help my unbelief.***

***O Lord, have mercy. O Lord, have mercy.***

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Assurance of Pardon: based on Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 43

What benefit do we receive from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?

**By Christ's power our old selves are crucified,**

**put to death, and buried with him,**

**so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us.**

**Instead, as we are raised to newness of life,**

**God forms us into new persons.**

**By grace, we can walk by the Spirit and offer our new selves to Christ  
as living sacrifices of gratitude.**

Offertory Prayer

Offering of our Gifts

Each week at Covenant we receive a monetary offering to support the mission and ministry of the church. This morning's offering will support the Christian Education Fund which provides funds for the education of our children at one of our local Christian schools to help keep tuition down to a level that is affordable for most of our families.

## Word

Children's Blessing: "Jesus Loves Me" LUYH 709:1

Children ages 3 years old through Kindergarten are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to receive a prayer of blessing before going downstairs to the Multi-Purpose Room for a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Scripture: John 2:23-3:21 p.1649

Sermon: "Loving Light" Pastor Joel Kok