

February 23, 2020      Mardi Gras Sunday      9:45 AM

**PRELUDE**      *Southern Gospel Classics*  
John Douglas and Jeffrey Segal

**SHARING OUR FELLOWSHIP**      Dan Griset

**INTROIT**      *There'll Be Peace in the Valley*  
By Thomas A. Dorsey  
Jim Swander, Jim Rosenquist, John Douglas and Jeffrey Segal

**CALL TO WORSHIP**      Stephanie Brown, Liturgist

One: This is the Sunday before Lent begins, or Mardi Gras Sunday. We give thanks for all things sacred, celebrating sexuality as a gift from God.

Many: **We have such different experiences; some of us are in relationships, some are single, some are sexually active, some are not. Yet, all of us are made in the image of the divine Spirit.**

One: Our hope is to always speak about sexuality with sensitivity enough to include a broad range of self-expressions as well as relationships, and to offer healing support to any who have been hurt.

Many: **Sexuality is over sold in the media, but often ignored in church. We seek a healthy balance with the help of our Creator Goddess.**

One: Let us enjoy our worship together in body, mind and spirit with passion, wisdom and peace.

Unison: **God, like Love, You are beyond words and descriptions and meant to be experienced. We open our hearts to Your life-changing Spirit. Transform us that our lives may be more Christ-like, reflecting and appreciating the beauty and sacredness of humanity in all its fullness. Teach us to practice Holy Love and live in freedom with responsibility. Amen.**

**OPENING SONG** (stand if able) *When the Saints Go Marching In*  
Please greet those around you after the song, then be seated.

**WORDS OF WELCOME**      Pastor Mike Holland

**ANTHEM**      *By Our Love*      Chancel Choir  
By Christy Nockels

**CHILDREN & YOUTH MOMENT**      Robbie Arevalos

**CHURCH SCHOOL**      Children & Youth excused to classes  
**Go, our children, with our blessing, God's light to be. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here the Spirit's power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you. Go, our children, with our blessing, God's light to be.**

**MORNING PRAYERS**  
**Sharing Joys & Concerns**

**MARDI GRAS PRAYER**      (Insert)

**Quiet Meditation**      Song of Songs 2:3-4,10-13      (Insert)

<sup>3</sup> As an apple tree among the trees of the wood,  
so is my beloved among young men.  
With great delight I sat in his shadow,  
and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

<sup>4</sup> He brought me to the banqueting house,  
and his intention towards me was love.

<sup>10</sup> My beloved speaks and says to me:  
'Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away;

<sup>11</sup> for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.

<sup>12</sup> The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtle-dove  
is heard in our land.

<sup>13</sup> The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away.

## MESSAGE

*Sacred Sexuality* Pastor Mike Holland

## HYMN DISCIPLESHIP *God of Change and Glory* Page 177

(Please stand if able)

## A TIME FOR GIVING

(Online giving is an option through [churchofthefoothills.org](http://churchofthefoothills.org))

Sharing Our Faith

Malia Cary, Elder

Offertory

*Your First Day in Heaven*

By Stewart Hamblen

Jim Swander, John Douglas and Jeffrey Segal

Receiving of Gifts (please stand if able)

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,**

**give thanks for the Holy One,**

**Give thanks because God's given so much love to us.**

**(repeat)**

**(ending) Give Thanks!**

## BENEDICTION

Pastor Mike Holland

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Oh when the saints go marching OUT*

*When the saints go marching OUT*

*Oh lord I want to be in that number*

*When the saints go marching OUT*

*(Repeat)*

## POSTLUDE

John Douglas and Jeffrey Segal