

**Ephraim Moravian Church**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
March 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**Order of Service**

**“Jesus Keep me Near the Cross” / “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” - Arr. Cindy Berry**

Welcome & Announcements

**“Ich Ruf’ Zu Dir, Herr Jesu” (“I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus”) - by J.S. Bach**

Watchword for the Week: *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me”* - Psalm 51:10

**Hymn #771: “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”**

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness  
No merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

*(Refrain)      On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand!*

When darkness veils his lovely face I rest on his unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.

*(Refrain)*

Prayers of the Church & The Lord’s Prayer

**Congregational Sung Response:**

*Open my ears that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear  
And while the wave notes fall on my ears everything false will disappear  
Silently now I wait for thee; ready my God, thy will to see  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine. Amen.*

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 31: 31-34  
Hebrews 5: 5-10

Reflection

**“Oh Rest in the Lord” from “Elijah” - by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy**

Sermon

Benediction

**“Intermezzo” from Organ Symphony No. 3 - by Louis Vierne**

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**Reflection - “More on the Language of Love” - by Barbara Axelson**

While watching an anniversary performance of *Les Misérables* the other evening on public television, I was struck by the final line in the beloved musical. The hero, Jean Valjean, says, as he is about to depart this life, ‘To love another person is to see the face of God.’ Among the very moving lyrics and poignant songs based on Victor Hugo’s classic, that closing reflection of our yearning to see the face of God was powerful indeed.

Jesus is God’s son, and, according to Hebrews in today’s lesson, a high priest, forever before the throne of God. The Trinity encompasses the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and we can share in that Godly love, care and concern by loving other persons.

We have been told to love another. Not always easy, is it? But God did not promise ‘easy’ - God promised never to leave us or forsake us as we follow God’s instructions. How wonderful it is to have instructions, especially in this day and age of relativism and ‘anything goes.’ Free will is not at all freedom to cater to every one of our whims - it is the freedom, the blessing, the right and the privilege to choose. Stand up for God’s way, the road to eternal life and everlasting glory - not moments of self-indulgence, but forever blessings, designed before our birth, promised before and after our earthly departure, of incomparable value.

*Pastor.....Dawn Volpe*  
*Music Director.....Colin Welford*  
*Guest Musicians.....Pete & Barbara Classen*

