

Order of Worship
March 14th, 2021

Prelude (Simon)

Call to Worship/Invocation/The Lord's Prayer (Carleen)

Hymn: Here I am Lord (Lisa Feltes)

Welcome and Announcements (Carleen)

Service of Baptism (Steve)

Scripture Reading: (Lisa Feltes)

Ruth 1:1- 22

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again.

Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said, "*Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.* ¹⁷ *Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even*

death parts me from you!” ¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰She said to them, “Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. ²¹I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?” ²²So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

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And from the prophet Jeremiah, For surely I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Pastoral Prayer (Steve)

Invitation to the Offering (Carleen)

Offertory: (Lisa Williamson)

Prayer after the Offering (Carleen)

Sermon:

“It is I you have been looking for”: Meditations on Pandemic, the Book of Ruth and the Practice of Kindness Beyond Borders (Laura)

Benediction (Laura)

Benediction Response: (Lisa Williamson and Simon Holt)