

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
3rd Sunday of Lent

March 7, 2021

*You are invited to observe silence for one minute,
breathing in and out, centering yourself on
the renewing and healing presence of the Holy Spirit.*

OPENING PRAYER

Good morning, Lord! It is a good day to be glad and give thanks, and we do, Lord as we worship. Thank you for today, a new opportunity to love, give, and be all that you want us to be. Amen.

VOLUNTARY

Melody Davis

OPENING HYMN 307 *To God Be the Glory*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Together, we confess our sin remembering that the word of the cross is the wisdom of God to those who are saved.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

Forgive us, O God, when we become so influenced by the wisdom of the world that we demand signs and seek intellectual certainty as proof of your existence. Forgive us when we get caught up in the quest for achievement and power, forgetting that Jesus' power was made perfect in weakness. Forgive our reluctance, O God, to proclaim with our lips and our lives that the crucified Christ is Lord of our lives and help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders such proclamation of our faith. Have mercy on us, O God, and strengthen us to do your will. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

Day to day, God offers us mercy and hope. Moment to moment, we are surround by God's never-ending love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen. Trust this Good News for you!

RESPONSE 581 *Glory Be to the Father*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dear God, thank you for giving us the Bible that tells about your love and shows us how to love the way Jesus loves. When we hear the Bible stories today, help us understand what they mean for us and how you are asking us to treat you and each other. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 66*)

Exodus 20: 1-17

What follows is a summary of the commandments spoken by God who said: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

You shall have no other gods before me, nor make for yourself an idol. You shall not worship or bow down to them for I am a jealous God. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God. Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

ANTHEM *The Heaven's Are Telling* Joseph Hayden
Michele Pappas, Steve O'Neil, Sean Turner and Sanctuary Choir

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 93*) John 2: 13-22
¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?"²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body.²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

HYMN 216 *Beneath the Cross*

SERMON *Cleaning, Clearing and Changing* Sherry Holloman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *We Belong to God*
We belong to God, eternal and infinite, creator of all things and all that is to come. We follow Christ, who comes to us from God, and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives, and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised by God, and reigns over all creation; and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world. We are moved by the Holy Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the Body of Christ, God's holy universal church. We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of resurrection and the reality of eternal life. In all things it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. Amen.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Bible says, "Whatever we say and do, let it be full of thanksgiving to God. As we give our offerings today, we give with joy!"

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

As On the Cross
Kayla Dixon and Sanctuary Choir

Arr. Lloyd Pfauatsch

RESPONSE *606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Dear God, we offer you now these gifts. Take our money and use it to bring comfort to those in need. Take our service and use it to bring justice to those whose who are oppressed. Take our witness and use it to bring good news to those who hunger for hope. Take our lives and use them for your holy purpose. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Once again our Lord invites us to gather around this table, from different homes and circumstances, with different dreams and ideas, different in age and color, different in gender and language, yet gathered as the one Body of Christ, his church.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Creator of heaven and earth, whose hands hold the whole world, we gather to give you our thanks and praise! You brought our world into being and formed man and woman in your image, breathing into them the breath of life. You gave them laws for living so that they would honor you and one another. When they failed and turned from your ways you spoke to them through the prophets who looked for that day when your commandment to love as you love would be written on receptive hearts. For the words of the prophets and for establishing a covenant, promising to be our God forever, we lift our voices with all your peoples on earth and in heaven, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

When the words of the prophet went unheeded, you broke into our history in the person of Jesus Christ who made your extravagant love visible in and through all he said and did and was. We remember that, anointed by your Spirit, he preached good news to the poor, proclaimed release to the captives, recovered sight for the blind, set the oppressed free

and offered the gift of salvation to all. From the dust of the ashes to this approaching season of Lent, it is with heavy, but thank-filled hearts, we remember that Christ was crucified, was dead, and then raised to eternal life so that all who believe in him may live in hope and faith. We offer our praise as we proclaim the great mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Through his death and resurrection, we have been empowered to reveal your love through our glad obedience to love as he loved. Remembering his promise to be with us always, we pray that you will send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, blessing this sharing of bread and wine. Send us, then, as your witnesses into all the world. One in spirit. One in mission. We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God, you have chosen us, called us, and led us. Accept our thanks for your mercy. You do not just watch us. You guide us, direct us, remind us, and call us again and again. Open our ears to hear. The life to which you call us is directed outward, to the people and situations of our world today. Inspire us by your love. With you we have a marvelous history, inspired by your presence, maintained by your forgiveness. Remind us that we also have a future, held in your hands, set by your promise. Remind us that your presence extends into the darkest corners of our world, the loneliest portions of our lives. We offer our prayers for those in pain, in poverty, in isolation; those who are ill, unemployed, underemployed; all who are addicted, who feel hopeless, who feel pointless; and all whom we name before you. You have made us yours. Enable us to respond with thanksgiving. Come to us and reveal your love in and through us. We pray all this in the name of our Savior, our companion and our guide, Jesus the Christ who taught us to pray saying: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The apostle Paul has written to describe what happened just before Jesus was betrayed and arrested. While they were all together at supper, Jesus took bread, and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Then he said, "This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After that he took a cup of wine, and said, "This is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

So also now: as long as we eat this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

This is the body of Christ, broken for you. This is the blood of Christ, poured out for your sins.

RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT

This sacrament is not the possession of this congregation nor of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) All persons are invited and encouraged to receive this sacrament. The Lord welcomes you. We welcome you.

COMMUNION RESPONSE *I Am the Bread of Life*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, God, for the people you bring to this Table, brothers and sisters in Christ. We share this meal, knowing that you created and loves us all, knowing that Jesus died for us all, and knowing that the Holy Spirit sustains us all. We are your people...one people, one body, one church in Jesus Christ. Amen.

DISMISSAL AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 722 *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*