



THIRD SUNDAY
in
LENT

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Communion

March 7, 2021

Livestream

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

“God, the Father Everlasting”
Randy Benfield

J.S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

STEPPING STONES “SACRAMENTS” CELEBRATION

ElizaBeth Phillips

CALL TO WORSHIP

Paul & Lynn Shultz and Joyce Purvis

Leader: We worship in the season of Lent, a time to examine our hearts and our lives,

People: and journey with Christ through the suffering of the world.

Leader: Let us listen for the commandments of God

People: and align our lives with God’s vision for peace.

Leader: God has marked us as beloved dust

People: and called us together to worship.

HYMN

“Lift High the Cross”

No. 371

Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry. *to Refrain*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Paul & Lynn Shultz and Joyce Purvis

Leader: Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly; we are still weak. In the cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace. We confess our sins, trusting in God's wisdom and strength rather than our own.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, how fickle we are; we sin against you without even knowing it. Clear us, we pray, of any unknown sin, and save us from willfully ignoring your way. Let your commandments rule and guide us. Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything except you; keep us faithful. Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships—with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors. Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness, rather than words that belittle or destroy. Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness. Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power, for you are the God who made us, led us out of slavery, and has brought us into the community of faith. Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Brothers and sisters, in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness with God and with one another!

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

"The Gloria Patri"

Traditional

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O, Divine Redeemer"

Gounod

Sanctuary Choir
(as recorded on March 20, 2011)

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SONG

"Keep Making Me"

McDonald, Frey & Mizell

Make me broken so I can be healed
I'm so calloused and now I can't feel
I want to run to You with heart wide open; Make me broken
Make me empty so I can be filled
I'm still holding on to my will
And I'm completed when You are with me; Make me empty
'Til You are my one desire, 'til You are my one true love
'Til You are my breath, my everything,
Lord, please keep making me
Make me lonely so I can be Yours
'Til I want no one more than You, Lord
'Cause in the darkness I know You will hold me; Make me lonely

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

SERMON

Day by Day

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

SONG

“You'll Come”

Fraser

I have decided, I have resolved to wait upon You, Lord
My rock and redeemer, shield and reward
I'll wait upon You, Lord

As surely as the sun will rise, You'll come to us
Certain as the dawn appears

You'll come. Let Your glory fall as You respond to us.
Spirit, rain, flood into our thirsty hearts again
You'll come, You'll come

We are not shaken, we are not moved. We wait upon You, Lord
Mighty deliverer, triumph and truth
We wait upon You, Lord

As surely as the sun will rise, You'll come to us
Certain as Your word endures

Chains be broken. Lives be healed.
Eyes be opened. Christ is revealed.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Place a plate with bread or crackers on a table in your home worship space. Beside it set a cup with juice, wine, water, or other common beverage in your home. With these elements we celebrate the shared presence of Christ that connects and nourishes our communion of faith.)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: As we prepare to celebrate the Lord's Supper, I invite you to look at the elements before you — the bread . . . the juice. There is probably nothing all that special about them.

Maybe you have this morning's left-over French toast, a piece of Wonder bread, a bagel from the grocery store. Maybe you had to scrounge at the back of the refrigerator for juice with a questionable expiration date, or you're hoping no one

notices you're celebrating with cranberry. But there is beauty in the ordinary, because in the work of the Spirit, the ordinary becomes holy.

As we break bread from miles apart, Christ invites our ordinary selves, with our ordinary bread. As we break bread from miles apart, we bear witness to something we imagine from our sanctuary but we cannot see — the expansive, far-reaching table of God.

Siblings in Christ, your table may look like your kitchen table, your coffee table, your very own lap, but it is an extension of the Lord's great banquet, and from east and west and north and south, you are invited to bear witness to an extraordinary meal in ordinary packaging — a feast of grace, love, and hope at the table in the kingdom of God.

Let us share in the feast that Christ has provided.

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor : The Lord be with you.

People : And also with you.

Pastor : Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: While we long to return to normal, to just be together, tasting the same bread, sharing the same cup, we cannot deny that there is still and is always reason to bring our thanks and praise to you, abiding God. Just look at us, right here in this moment. Even apart, we are together — your people, a community of mutual support and love. Even separated from our church home, we are never separated from you. As you guided the Israelites through their wilderness and wandering, never forgetting or failing them, despite their fear and impatience at the long journey to “normal,” we trust that you are with us, too, laying a pathway to a new day. Thank you for today's visible reminder that no building can contain the promises of your reliable presence with us and for us.

As our world yearns for stability and longs for the easing of ache, we wait in the quiet confidence of a people who know your Son. Jesus Christ, our Savior, modeled compassion for all. He paid attention to suffering — the anguish of health declined, and hearts broken, and hope waning. And he extended healing. He formed a community of disciples, a rag-tag bunch like you and me, whom he gathered in — to teach and to love; whom he sent out — to teach and to love. So whether we are gathered or whether we are scattered, we are entrusted to the eternal promises, of the one who lived, and died, and lived again, to set us free from suffering and sin. And so, we give thanks that, in Christ, new beginnings are possible.

Remembering your constant faithfulness across the tumult of all days, we give thanks for the signs of you, O God, with us — in these ordinary gifts of bread and juice. Pour out your Spirit upon us, wherever we may be, And stir amidst these gifts of bread and cup that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us at your table, across the miles — with one another, with your children in every time and place, with the living Christ.

May the taste of grace on our tongues jog our memories of your faithfulness and energize us to live out your love for us, through whatever tomorrow brings, until we break bread at your table in glory.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(You are now invited to take a bite of your bread and a sip from your cup and to taste the mystery of God's grace.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor: Holy God, even when all of this is over, may we not forget how you held us together while we were apart, how you built a table across the miles, how you call us to continue the work of table-building. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: O God, your commandments give us a sense of direction for renewing our discipleship. Your way and pattern of life shown in your commandments enable us to enter ever more deeply into the Christian life. We ponder your commandments in their depth and breadth. You have called us not just to refrain from violence, but to restrain hurtful and unkind words. Indeed, you have called us to ponder deep flourishing for all of your children and for our planet. Empower us to live by your way in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Holy one, help us to be an embodiment of the peace that we pass to one another, and by so doing that we might be your peace in the world. We know too well our divisions based in gender, race, sexuality and class, but help us bear witness to a different reality. Help us begin the process of healing and deliverance. Help us form new ways of being in mutuality, love and justice with and through one another. Empower us to live out of your love in all that we do, healing divisions, addressing enmity and reaching out to those we perceive as enemies. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of all nations, we pray for all countries around the globe — for those who have been charged to exercise leadership on behalf of the common good. Help them to discern the wise use of resources, including vaccines, to address the needs of citizens suffering from the pandemic and its grave economic strains. And move us all to attend to the cries of the marginal in our midst. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying,

Unison: 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 CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Lord whom we love, whom we worship and adore,
We will serve throughout this coming week. He it is who binds us together,
And He it is who sends us apart, to be God's people, be God's people. Amen.

Call to Worship from *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal Online*

Prayers of Confession and Assurance from *Feasting on the Word*

Prayers of the People and Communion Liturgy by Roger Gench, *Presbyterian Outlook* 2021.

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Audio/Video Technicians: Steve Parker and Bruce MacLean

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Piano: Gabe Bisho

Guitar: Paul Zeman

Bass: Jay Leek

Drums: Will Condrey