

## Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 451 *Open My Eyes*  
“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

\*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)  
We believe in a wilderness God—  
**Who breathed life into dust, turned seeds  
into flowers, and flooded the sky with stars.**  
We believe in a wilderness God—  
**Who went hungry in the desert, walked  
barefoot on the water, and taught from the  
mountainside.**  
We believe in a wilderness God—  
**Whose love could be described as nothing  
short of wild.**  
So with confidence and hope, we long to  
follow our wilderness God who walks with people  
on their darkest nights,  
**Who sings hope into places of grief,  
isolation, and suffering, and who exists in  
the form of untamed joy, endless love, and  
impossible hope. Step by step, may it be so.  
Amen.**

Pastoral Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayer for the People and Lord's Prayer Choral Amen  
**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.**

Call to Stewardship  
*All undesignated cash goes to the Compassion Fund.*

Offertory Michael Burkhardt  
“God Himself Is Present”

\*Congregational Response Hymn 606 *Old Hundredth*  
**Doxology**  
**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;**  
**Praise Him all creatures here below;**  
**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**  
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Offertory Prayer

## Bearing and Following the Word into the World

\*Hymn 546 *Sicilian Mariners*  
“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

\*Invitation to Discipleship

\*Charge and Benediction  
Loving God, we have gathered, and we have  
received the gift of living water.  
**Go with us now as we leave this place.**  
With the new found strength of your presence in  
our lives, help us to live this week as those who  
have witnessed your love.  
**Help us to invite others to come and  
experience for themselves the Messiah who is  
in our midst.  
Amen.**

\*Closing Choral Response Hal H. Hopson  
“The Lord Bless You”  
Sanctuary Choir

The Lord bless you, the Lord keep you,  
the Lord give you peace. Amen.

\*Peace of Christ  
The peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you**

\*Closing Voluntary Tomas de Santa Maria  
“Fantasia on the First Tone”

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 **Grace First**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working*

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The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor  
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor  
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP  
March 15, 2020 10:40 A.M.

Third Sunday in Lent

*\*The congregation is invited to stand as music begins.  
Additional worshipers may enter as the congregation sings.*

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church! As we light the Christ Candle, we are reminded that Jesus is the light of the world. As we pour the Baptismal Waters in the Font, we recall our baptism and newness of life. As we bring in the Bible, we remember the centrality of the Word. We worship our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. ***(Please sign the attendance register, pass it down the pew, and then back so everyone can greet those worshiping near you.)***

Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary J.S. Bach  
“God’s Time Is the Best”

Entrance of Baptismal Water, the Christ Light,  
and the Bible

Call to Worship (Responsive)

All are welcome here—

**The young and old, those who have visions  
and those who dream dreams.**

All are welcome here—

**The sinner and saint, those who seek  
forgiveness and those who long for peace.**

All are welcome here—

**The hurt and the doubting, those who know  
the wilderness and those who feel lost.**

All are welcome here; for you are loved by God,  
and this is God’s house.

**Let us worship God. Amen.**

Prayer of Invocation

\*Hymn 610 Azmon  
“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**God, we give you our hearts. They are brimming  
with doubt and are saturated with fear, but we give  
them to you anyway, for you promise to love us as we  
are. You promise to walk with us to the ends of the  
earth, so in this moment, we promise to tell the truth.  
God, you ask us to be brave and bold, but we cower in  
fear. You ask us to love our neighbors as ourselves,  
but we hold tight to privilege and the status quo. And  
you ask us to risk it all to follow you, but we are  
content with the injustices at hand. Forgive us for our  
sin and lift our eyes to you. Lift our eyes to the hills.  
Gratefully we pray...**

Silent Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Congregational Response Hymn 63 vs.1 & 2 Azmon  
“The Lord Is God”

The Lord is God, the Lord alone!  
Give honor, thanks, and praise to God,  
the maker of all things and giver of our days.  
With all your heart, with all your soul,  
with all your mind and might, O people,  
love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Music Ministry Allen Pote

“Many Gifts, One Spirit  
Sanctuary Choir

Many gifts, one spirit, many songs, one voice.  
Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice.  
O God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.  
In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.  
O God, remind us we are not alone.  
Though we move on different pathways,  
we are walking to your throne.

Help us learn to love each other,  
show us ways to understand,  
We are members of one family  
growing strong by joining hands.  
O God remind us we are not alone.  
Though we move on different pathways,  
we are walking to your throne.  
Take our many ways of working,  
blend the colors of each soul  
Into the beauty of a rainbow, give us life,  
Lord, make us whole.

Children’s Moment The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz  
*(Following the Children’s Moment, children up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
may leave the Sanctuary for Children’s Worship.  
Following worship, parents should pick-up their child in room 6.)*

First Reading Exodus 17:1-17  
Pew Bible: Page 64

The Word of God for the People of God  
**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95:1-7 Pew Bible Page 550  
Cantor: Rusty Crownover



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Second Reading John 4:5-42  
Pew Bible: Page 94

The Word of God for the People of God  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The Rev. David A. Slyter