

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 Gilbert M. Martin
"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"
Sanctuary Choir

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our feverish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives Thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs
who heard beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow Thee.

Oh, Sabbath rest by Galilee! Of, calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with Thee the silence
of eternity interpreted by love!

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm! Amen!

*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 165 *Erhalt Uns, Herr*
"The Glory of These Forty Days"

*Invitation to Discipleship

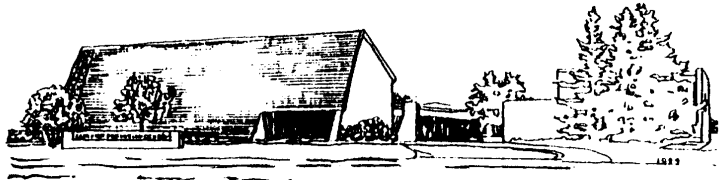
*Charge and Benediction

*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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Today's Liturgy has been adapted from: Feasting on the Word:
Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1
Cover art: *Wilderness Song* by Lauren Wright Pittman of Sanctified Art



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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 8, 2020 10:40 A.M.

Second 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 Bringing the Wilderness In

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 645 Mit Freuden Zart
“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

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

Children’s Music Ministry William M. Schoenfeld
“The Prayer of St. Patrick”

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me.
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

*Following the Children’s Music Ministry, children up through 5th grade may leave the Sanctuary for Children’s Worship.
Following worship, parents should pick-up their child in room 6.*

First Reading Psalm 121
Pew Bible: Page 571

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

Psalm 32:1-7, 11

Pew Bible Page 506
Cantor: Kirk Pendleton

Refrain Joseph Parry
Arr. Hal H. Hopson

Lord, I — call — to you for help;


In your — mer - cy hear my prayer.

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Second Reading John 3:1-17
Pew Bible: 93

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

Sermon The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 45 Dundee
“I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes”

*Affirmation of Faith (Responsive)

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.