



Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 21, 2021

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

As you prepare for worship today you are invited to light a candle in your worship space or gaze upon the Christ candle in the Sanctuary to center yourself for the worship of God.

Prelude

Bethany

arr. Richard Elliott

“Nearer My God, to Thee”

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Worship is a time to celebrate and share our lives. What brings you here?

We want to see Jesus.

Each one here is on his or her own unique faith journey. What is your destination?

We want to know Jesus.

What are you called to do once you see and know Jesus?

We want to share it with the world.

Prayer of Invocation

God, in this time of worship we seek your blessing as we glorify your holy name. Grant us your guidance as we strive to be your faithful people. Shape our hearts that we might obey your will in word and deed. Fill us with hope as we search for healing and wholeness. Amen.

187 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

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This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

TEXT: Thrupp's Hymns for the Young, 1836, alt.
 MUSIC: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1859, alt.

BRADBURY
 8.7.8.7.D

Call to Confession

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Trusting in God's grace, let us join together in the prayer of confession followed by our own silent time of prayer.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God, we confess that we have not followed the ways of your Son, Jesus. Far too often we do not make time to be with you in prayer. We do not obey your will. We take the easy road and then congratulate ourselves on being faithful. We know our need for forgiveness, and we ask for your merciful pardon. Help us to truly repent and turn to you anew.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ we find eternal salvation, healing, wholeness, and grace overflowing. Friends, God has heard our prayers and we are forgiven. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the words of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace. Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Music Ministry

Jacob Arcadelt

“Hear My Prayer, O God”

Sanctuary Choir 2010

Hear my prayer, O God, turn not from me;
Hearken unto the voice of my supplication.
I will call on God, He alone will be my salvation.
He endureth for all generations.

O Lord Almighty, turn not Thyself from me,
I pray Thee, O Lord God!
Hear my prayer, Lord! Amen.

Second Reading

John 12:20-33

The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Rev. David Slyter

833 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
 2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my
 3 O Joy that seek-est me through pain, I can-not
 4 O Cross that lift-est up my head, I dare not

wea-ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 flick-ering torch to thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain-bow through the rain, and
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo-ry dead, and

in thine o-cean depths its flow may rich-er, full-er be.
 in thy sun-shine's blaze its day may bright-er, fair-er be.
 feel the prom-ise is not vain that morn shall tear-less be.
 from the ground there blos-soms red life that shall end-less be.

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

TEXT: George Matheson, 1881, alt.
 MUSIC: Albert Lister Peace, 1884, alt.

ST. MARGARET
 8.8.8.8.6

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer for the People and Lord's Prayer

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.

Call to Stewardship

As followers of Christ, we are to practice Jesus' ways of obedience and sacrifice. He gave every part of himself to God's will and consequently became a blessing for all the world. Our tithes and offerings are signs of our own obedience and sacrifice. May they be used this day to be a blessing to the world.

Offertory

Woodworth

arr. Dale Wood

“Just As I Am, Without One Plea”

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

God, with our gifts today, we acknowledge that this world is only temporary and all that we have is merely loaned to us from you. As we give back some of your gracious gifts, we move one step closer to letting go of this world and embracing the next. Amen.

826

Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Descant

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. The first system shows the refrain: "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim". The second system shows the descant: "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim". The third system is a piano accompaniment for the descant, featuring a treble and bass staff with chords and single notes.

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

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*

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

TEXT: George William Kitchin, 1887; rev. Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.
 MUSIC: Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916; desc. Richard Proulx, 1985
 Text and Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company
 Music Desc. © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

CRUCIFER
 10.10 with refrain

Benediction

Let us go forth to live Christ's ways of obedience and sacrifice. Let us go forth to share the good news of Christ's gift of new and abundant life. Let us go forth to serve in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

Erhalt Uns Herr

"The Glory of These Forty Days"

Worship Notes

How is God speaking to me today?
(Music, Sermon, Scripture, Prayers, etc.)

What are the takeaways for today's Service?
What is standing out to me?

How did the service challenge me?

Living in faith is something we do daily.
What actions will I take based on today's service?