

Responding to the Word

*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.

Call to Stewardship

All undesignated cash goes to the Compassion Fund.

Offertory

“Come Take the Body”
Sanctuary Choir

Roberts Lau

Come take the body of the Lord,
come drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Saved by that body, saved by that blood,
we are refreshed and give our thanks to God.

Salvation’s giver, God’s only Son,
by His dear cross and blood the victory won,
and he was offered there for great and least,
Himself the victim, Himself the priest.

The judge eternal, to whom we bow,
all nations at the last, is with us now.
Praise for the Father, praise to the Son,
and praise to the Spirit, the Three in One.
Come take the body, the victory won!

*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

*Hymn 167 v. 1,2,3 *Aus Der Tiefe Rufe Ich*
“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

THE LORD’S SUPPER
(Gluten-free bread is in small cups on each tray.)

Communion Voluntary *Hymns of the Faith*

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

*Hymn 167 v. 4&5 *Aus Der Tiefe Rufe Ich*
“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

*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.

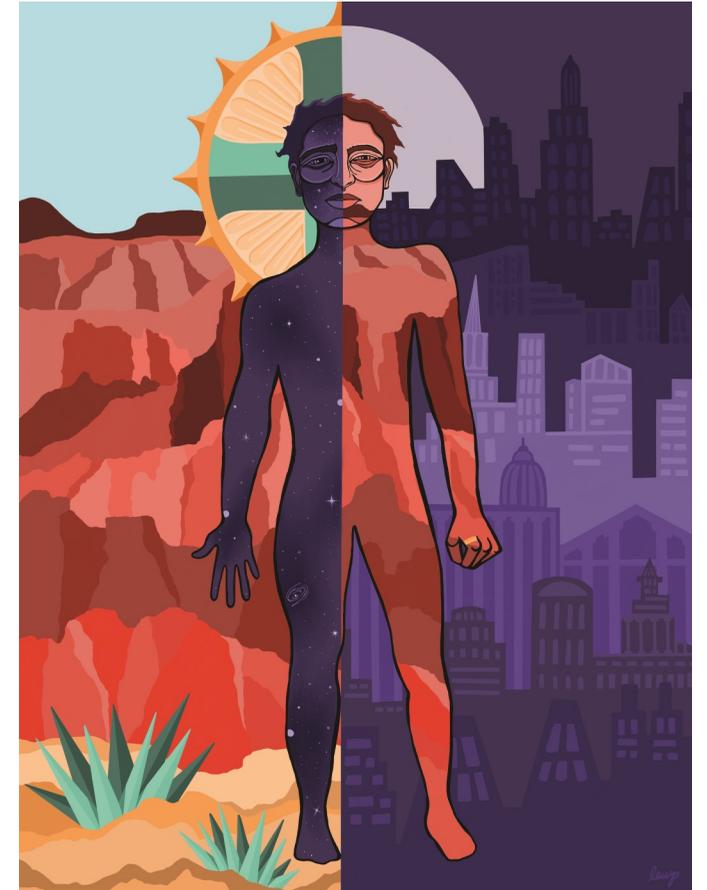
*Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

*Closing Voluntary Francois Couperin
“Fugue on the Kyrie”

Free permission is granted by the publisher to reproduce the psalm refrains
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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: *Spirit Led* by Lauren Wright Pittman of Sanctified Art
Affirmation by Sarah Are, of Sanctified Art.



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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 1, 2020 10:40 A.M.

The First 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 Traditional Spiritual
arr. Sandra Eithun
"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"
Sanctuary Handbells

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

Call to Worship (Responsive) Joe Barnhart
God hovered over the void and breathed life into dust.
God created in the wilderness.
The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years.
The Israelites found God in the wilderness.
Jesus said "no" to the tempter time and time again.
Jesus claimed his identity in the wilderness.
We grow in the wilderness. We learn in the wilderness.
For God is with us—before, through, and after the wilderness.
Let us worship God!
Amen.

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 225 *Fortunatus New*
"Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of Creation, the psalms remind us that even before a word is on our tongue, you know it completely. You know the prayers we bring before you today—confessions of greed and doubt, fear and anxiety, conflict and regret. Free us from these sins. Give us the strength to say "no" to that which separates us from you, and "yes" to the things that let love grow. Guide us out of our self-created wilderness spaces and into your light. Gratefully we pray...

Silent Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness (Responsive)

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven! Be glad in the Lord and shout for joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*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 Carl F. Mueller
"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"
Sanctuary Choir

Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways;
and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.
Create in me a clean heart, O God!

Children's Moment

Following this, 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 Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Pew Bible: Page 2

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

Psalms 32:1-7, 11 Page 552 Cantor: Dianna Dixon

Joseph Parry
Arr. Hal H. Hopson

Refrain



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Second Reading Matthew 4:1-11
Pew Bible: Page 3

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

Sermon The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz