

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



First Presbyterian Church

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Service for the Lord's Day

Third Sunday in Lent

March 24, 2019

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

Most Generous God, incline my ears to hear you; open my heart to your guidance. Amen

Gathering

PRELUDE

Selected

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

INTROIT

“Come Just As You Are”
(Chancel Choir)

***CALL TO WORSHIP - Responsive**

Liturgist - Kelly Weaver

O God, we seek you, and our souls thirst for you.

Our flesh faints for the Lord, as in a dry and weary land.

O God, your steadfast love is better than life itself!

Let us bless the Lord as long as we live, lift up our hands and call on God's name.

***HYMN #435**

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

Faber, 1854

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, that we may become instruments of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

CONFESSION

In the name of Christ, I urge you: Be reconciled to God. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin, first in silence, then in unison.

SILENT REFLECTION

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We try to draw boundaries around your forgiveness, for we cannot imagine the endlessness of your grace. We try to make a rule book of your holy stories, for we cannot grasp the depth of your living word. We try to make a worldly hero of our holy savior, for we cannot understand the majesty of your gift. Forgive us, Holy One, and gather us more closely into the realm of your transforming love.

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

*“Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.”*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen, the time has come at last. Look, now is the day of salvation! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***GLORIA PATRI**

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.

Word

ANTHEM

*“How Can We Name a Love”
(Chancel Choir)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Isaiah 55:1-9 (from *The Inclusive Bible*) Pew Bibles,p.644/LG.p.838

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE I Corinthians 10:1-13 (from *The Inclusive Bible*) Pew Bibles,p.161/LG.p.209
We proclaim Christ crucified- the wisdom and power of God. *Thanks be to God.*

HYMN #38

*“To Bless the Earth”
(Psalm 65)*

Vulpius, 1609

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE Luke 13:1-9 (from *The Inclusive Bible*) Pew Bibles, p.71/ LG. p.92

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

SERMON

Rev. Michele R. Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we bend our knees and lift up our hearts, giving glory to God forever. *Amen.*

***HYMN #375** *“Shall We Gather at the River”* (v.1&2) Lowry, 1864

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - RESPONSIVE** Kathy Porter

The Affirmation of Faith is the Apostles' Creed

As members of the body of Christ, let us reaffirm the faith into which we were baptized:

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN #375 *“Shall We Gather at the River”* (v.3&4)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - Responsive

Our response this morning is: *hear our prayer.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Using the words our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Selected

*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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

Let us dedicate the offering together:

You have shown us, O God, the sacrifice that you desire. Now use these gifts— and use our lives— to liberate the oppressed, to break the bonds of injustice, to feed the hungry, welcome the poor, and unite the human family; all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

***HYMN #65** *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”* (v.1&2) Williams, 1762

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

***RESPONSE #65** *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”* (v.3)

POSTLUDE Selected

(*) Those who are able may stand.
Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.