



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ORDER FOR WORSHIP THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT / THE LORD'S SUPPER FEBRUARY 21, 2021

(BOLD indicates Read Together)

GATHERING

PRELUDES

Be Thou My Vision – Lau

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Come, Share the Lord – Leech

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us lift up our souls to our merciful God
and humble ourselves in God's service.

God has marked us as beloved dust
and called us together to worship.

HYMN – “O God, Who Gives Us Life”

**O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
Deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.**

**O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
When we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.**

**O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God our Redeemer, we confess that we are people of ashes and dust.
You have claimed us in your covenant, yet we forget your steadfast love.
You seek us out in the wilderness, yet we continue to wander in our sin.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Wash us clean, once again, so that we may return to you
and follow your holy way; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**
(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO PARDON – “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (v. 3)

**Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.**

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Merciful God, your Word is our way of truth and life.
Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us,
so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

FIRST LESSON – I Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you^(to) to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for^(a) a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

(The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**)

SECOND LESSON – Genesis 9:8-17

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

(The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**)

SERMON – “God of the Covenant: A Global Guarantee” – Rev. Anthony Lorenz

HYMN – “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

**O love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.**

**O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine’s blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.**

**O joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain That morn shall tearless be.**

**O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red Life that shall endless be.**

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING THANKS

OFFERING OURSELVES

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Almighty and most merciful God, from you comes every good and perfect gift.
We give you praise and thanks for all your mercies.
Your goodness has created us, your bounty has sustained us,
your discipline has chastened us, your patience has borne with us,
your love has redeemed us.
Give us a heart to love and serve you, and enable us to show our thankfulness
for all your goodness and mercy by giving up ourselves to your service,
and cheerfully submitting in all things to your blessed will;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. AMEN**

HYMN OF PREPARATION – “Let Us Break Bread Together”

Let us break bread together on our knees;

Let us break bread together on our knees.

(Refrain)

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

(Repeat Refrain)

Let us praise God together on our knees;

Let us praise God together on our knees.

(Repeat Refrain)

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

*This Table is open to all who trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior
and have been baptized, including children who have been instructed by their family.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(read responsively)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voice with choirs
of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(from the Iona Community of Scotland)*

Generous and faithful God, you have fed us at your table.

May the nourishment we have received enable us

to enrich the lives of others wherever we may go from here.

**Whether the futures be dark or bright, the road be smooth or rough,
whether our cares be light or heavy, our song be strong or weak,
keep our hearts warm and our hands open, our lives embracing
and ever embraced by your love. AMEN**

SENDING

HYMN – “This Is My Father’s World”

**This is my Father’s world, And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and ‘round me rings The music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas – His hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father’s world, The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, Declare their Maker’s praise.
This is my Father’s world: He shines in all that’s fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father’s world, O let me ne’er forget
That thought the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world: The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, And earth and heaven be one.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE – “Lord, Who Throughout Theses Forty Days” (v. 4)

**Abide with us, that so, this life Of suffering over-past,
An Easter of unending joy We may attain at last!**

POSTLUDE – *Concertino* – Young



SERVING TODAY:

Worship Assistant: Bill Beck
Reader: Barb Allen
Vocalist: Kari Kornish
Camera: Joe Shane
Recorder: Ray Thomas

THIS WEEK, IN OUR PRAYERS:

- * **the church at work:** *Presbyteries of* – Mid-Kentucky; Charlotte; Boston; South Louisiana; Philadelphia, East Tennessee
- * **the Presbytery of Carlisle:** Central (Chambersburg); Rev. Scott Bowerman
- * **the community:** Claremont Chaplaincy
- * **the congregation (at random):** Lynne, Dan, Jake & Grace Hofferica; Helen Thompson

THIS WEEK, IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH:

- ~ **Wednesday, 7 PM:** Bible Study (via Zoom)
- ~ **Thursday, 2 PM:** Faith Circle meets (via Zoom)

NEXT SUNDAY Second Sunday in Lent Feb. 28, 2021

WORSHIP: (recording of service); **Note:** Sunday morning worship is recorded at approximately 9:15 AM & posted by Noon on the church website, church Facebook page, and YouTube (“Sunday on the Square”).



Members of the Congregation, Ministers

The Rev. Anthony D. Lorenz, Pastor

The Rev. Jon A. Black, Pastor Emeritus; Debby Madden, Educator Emerita

Arthur Thompson, Organist; Ron Richcreek, Music Director

Avis Allen, Administrative Secretary; Chuck Adler, Sexton

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