



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2A NORTH HANOVER STREET, CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17013

717.243.4612 • WWW.FIRSTPRESCARLISLE.ORG • FPCARL@PA.NET

ORDER FOR WORSHIP THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT FEBRUARY 28, 2021

(BOLD indicates Read Together)

GATHERING

PRELUDES

Blessed Assurance – Lau

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Holy Spirit, ever Dwelling – Langlois

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us pick up our crosses and follow Christ
on a path that is lined with God's love.

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

HYMN – “The God of Abraham Praise”

**The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days, The God of love!
The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before Your holy name, Forever blest.**

**Your spirit still flows free, High surging where it will;
In prophet's word You spoke of old And You speak still.
Established is Your law, And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea, or land.**

**You have eternal life Implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While ages roll.
We praise You, living God! We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought, And still the same!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God our Redeemer, we confess that we are people of ashes and dust.
You call us to be a blessing in the world, but we only seek our own benefit.
You call us to give our lives for others, but we only seek to save ourselves.
Forgive us, God of grace.**

**Set our minds on divine things – the good news of the gospel
and the promise of new life in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO PARDON – “Loves 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

**Holy God, our strength in suffering and our hope for salvation,
lift up your Word of life and pour out your Spirit of grace
so that we may follow faithfully all the way to the cross;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

FIRST LESSON – Romans 4:13-25

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already^[a] as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore his faith^[b] “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³ Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC – “Could We Start Again, Please” – Ron & Deb Richcreek, vocalists

SECOND LESSON – Genesis 17:1-16

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham;^[a] for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring^[d] after you. ⁸ And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.” ⁹ God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰ This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² Throughout your generations every male among you shall be circumcised when he is eight days old, including the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring. ¹³ Both the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money must be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.” ¹⁵ God said to Abraham,

“As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

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

SERMON – “God of the Covenant: Promises We Can’t Keep” – Rev. Anthony Lorenz

HYMN – “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!”

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

(Refrain)

**This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

(Repeat Refrain)

**Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.**

(Repeat Refrain)

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**

SENDING

HYMN – “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

**Take up your cross, the Savior said, If you would My disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart, And humbly follow after Me.**

**Take up your cross, let not its weight Fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ’s strength shall bear your spirit up And brace your heart and nerve your arm.**

**Take up your cross, heed not the shame, And let your foolish heart be still;
The Lord for you accepted death Upon a cross, on Calvary’s hill.**

**Take up your cross, then, in Christ’s strength, And calmly every danger brace:
It guides you to abundant life And leads to victory o’er the grave.**

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 – *Deo Gracias* - Johnson



SERVING TODAY:

Worship Assistant: Bill Beck
Reader: Nancy Jacoby
Vocalist: Lynda Mann
Camera: Joe Shane
Recorder: Ray Thomas

THIS WEEK, IN OUR PRAYERS:

- * **the church at work:** *Presbyteries of* – Salem; Western Reserve; the Pacific; *Synod of* – Lakes & Prairies; and Guatemala
- * **the Presbytery of Carlisle:** Falling Spring (Chambersburg); Rev. Andrew Hart
- * **the community:** Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry
- * **the congregation (at random):** Mary Jane Blosser; Barbara Rebert

THIS WEEK, IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH:

- ~ **Monday, 7 PM:** Deacons meeting (Zoom)
- ~ **Wednesday, 9 AM–2 PM:** Call the church to reserve seating for in-person worship scheduled to begin **Mar. 7, 10:45 AM.**
- ~ **Wednesday, 7 PM:** Bible Study (Zoom)

NEXT SUNDAY . . . Third Sunday in Lent . . . March 7, 2021

RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP, 10:45 AM: Sunday morning worship will continue to be recorded & will be posted by 1 PM 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

Church Administrative Office Hours: M, W, F, 9-2

Office Phone: (717) 243-4612; Office E-mail: fpcarl@pa.net

Rev. Lorenz' email: alorenz.fpcarl@pa.net

Rev. Lorenz' phone number: cell (717) 609-3780

Website: www.firstprescarlisle.org