

and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Sermon Rev. Sharon Carter

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. *2 Corinthians 5:17-18*

Offering

Prayer, Offertory Music

Response *Glory Be to the Father*

#577

Notes

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts
2x

The whole world is full of God's glory
3x

Holy is the Lord!

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

Going Into the World

+Hymn *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* STF2241

+Charge and Benediction

+Postlude



THE BODY OF CHRIST



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church
March 31, 2019 Fourth Sunday in Lent
+Stand as you are able
Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold

Preparing Ourselves

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship/Opening Prayer

L: Knowing God's love and grace makes us joyful.

P: The love and grace of God is with us always.

L: Remember all of the ways God has worked in and among us.

P: We call out in joy when we see God's hand on our lives.

Let us pray: **Gracious God, in order that the children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world. As Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in all truth and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

+Hymn *Gather Us In* STF2236

Call to Confession

We come before God not as despised sinners, but as beloved children. With the confidence of children of God, let us humbly confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. (moment of silence)

L: Listen, so that you may live: the steadfast love of the Lord never fails. Let us rejoice, for in Jesus Christ we are all forgiven!

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Do you ever feel like the younger son? Like the Parent? Like the older brother?

Why is the older brother mad? Why is the father not mad?

Response *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*
STF2200

+Passing of the Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

Hymn *O Sing A Song of Bethlehem*
#308

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, and prepare our hearts to accept your word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will in every part of our lives. Amen.

Anthem and Scripture Reading

Lead Me Back - Choplin

The gospel reading is included in the anthem today and may not align exactly with the following NRSV version.

Scripture Reading Luke 15:11b-

32 ¹¹Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in

dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music