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COF Worship, March 14, 2021, 10:30 am

Third Sunday of Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

L: We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

P: Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.

L: God's love is for you and for all people everywhere.

P: That we may share God's love and life, may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ.

L: The living Christ is with us.

P: Praise the Lord!

--Life in Liturgy.Wordpress.com/Lent4B

Let us pray: **O God, you are infinite, eternal and unchangeable, glorious in holiness, full of love and compassion, abundant in grace and truth. All your works praise you in all places of your dominion, and your glory is revealed in Jesus Christ our savior; therefore we praise you, blessed and holy trinity, one God, for ever and ever, and we pray to you the prayer Christ taught: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.***

Hymn *To God Be the Glory*

*To God be the glory, great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his son,
Who yielded his life and atonement for sin, and opened the lifegate that all may go in.*

Refrain:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!

O come to the father through Jesus the son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

*Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the son,
But purer, and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.*

Refrain

*To God be the glory, great things he hath done! So loved he the world that he gave us his son,
Who yeilded his life and atonement for sin, and opened the lifegate that all may go in.*

Refrain

Call to Confession

When we bring our confessions to God, we are also owning up within ourselves the mistakes we have made and the ways we have caused injury in our lives. Trusting in God's mercy, let us offer our confession to our gracious God:

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, When you called upon us, to uplift the least and the last, We crowded our hearts with objection and feigned ignorance of need. The chaos of our world we denied, And the trials of even our loved ones Were forgotten, put aside, pushed away. Where are we now, loving God, Attending on our knees in prayer and Asking for your merciful intervention? Though we have earned no keep in heaven And though we are stained with our own wrongdoing, You redeem us surely, setting us as pillars of faith Before the world You gave us. Grant, O Lord, that our stubborn hearts give way To the forgiveness You so gently, so absolutely give. (moment of silence.)

Steen, Jeffrey. Prayers and Meditations for Taizé-Style Worship (Kindle Locations 72-77). Kindle Edition.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p.21). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Response of Praise *Glory Be to the Father*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be

World without end. Amen, amen.

Special Music

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 22). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

First Reading Numbers 21:4-9 ⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Hymn *Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart*

*Eternal light shine in my heart; eternal hope, lift up my eyes;
Eternal power be my support; eternal wisdom make me wise.*

*Eternal life, raise me from death; eternal brightness help me see;
Eternal spirit give me breath; eternal savior come to me.*

*Until by your most costly grace, invited by your holy word,
At last I come before your face to know you, my eternal God.*

Gospel Reading John 3:14-21 ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith *Apostles' Creed (ecumenical)*

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

And 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.

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.

Offering prayer *thank you to all who continue to give!*

L: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions.

P: Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 25). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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.**

...who forever sing to the glory of your holy 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.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Music and Quiet Reflection—*Lamb of God (Angus Dei)*--- *The London Fox Taize Choir*

Prayer after Communion

Going to Serve

Hymn *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy!

Bread is broken the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the word around, loaves abound!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the word around, loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,

Teaching people to live, to bless, love in word and in deed express.

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the word around, loaves abound!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the word around, loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,

Gives us love to tell, bread to share, God (Immanuel) everywhere.

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the word around, loaves abound!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the word around, loaves abound!

Charge and Benediction

Music License: One License A-732604