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Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live



COF Worship, March 7, 2021, 10:30 am

Third Sunday of Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

L: This is the day the Lord has made!

P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

L: Through the gift of the Holy Spirit

P: God's love is poured into our hearts.

Let us pray: **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; and who taught us to pray, saying: *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 *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all we bow before you;

All on earth your scepter claim, all in heaven above adore you.

Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

Hark, the glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising;

Cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,

Fill the heavens with sweet accord, holy, holy, holy Lord.

All apostles join the strain as your sacred name they hallow;

Prophets swell the glad refrain, and the blessed martyrs follow,

And from morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on.

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

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.) Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 236). Presbyterian Publishing. 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 *More Like You, Jesus*

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

God of abundant life, your grace is our daily bread. Nourish us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit so that we may grow in faith and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 69). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Scripture I Corinthians 1:18-31 (Contemporary English Version) ¹⁸ The message about the cross doesn't make any sense to lost people. But for those of us who are being saved, it is God's power at work. ¹⁹ As God says in the Scriptures,

"I will destroy the wisdom
of all who claim
to be wise.
I will confuse those
who think they know
so much."

²⁰ What happened to those wise people? What happened to those experts in the Scriptures? What happened to the ones who think they have all the answers? Didn't God show that the wisdom of this world is foolish? ²¹ God was wise and decided not to let the people of this world use their wisdom to learn about him. Instead, God chose to save only those who believe the foolish message we

preach. ²² Jews ask for miracles, and Greeks want something that sounds wise. ²³ But we preach that Christ was nailed to a cross. Most Jews have problems with this, and most Gentiles think it is foolish. ²⁴ Our message is God's power and wisdom for the Jews and the Greeks that he has chosen. ²⁵ Even when God is foolish, he is wiser than everyone else, and even when God is weak, he is stronger than everyone else.

²⁶ My dear friends, remember what you were when God chose you. The people of this world didn't think that many of you were wise. Only a few of you were in places of power, and not many of you came from important families. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of this world to put the wise to shame. He chose the weak things of this world to put the powerful to shame. ²⁸ What the world thinks is worthless, useless, and nothing at all is what God has used to destroy what the world considers important. ²⁹ God did all this to keep anyone from bragging to him. ³⁰ You are God's children. He sent Christ Jesus to save us and to make us wise, acceptable, and holy. ³¹ So if you want to brag, do what the Scriptures say and brag about the Lord.

Hymn *Be Thou My Vision*

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; not be all else to me, save that thou art—
My best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping thy presence my light.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me Lord;
Heart of mine own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.*

Scripture **John 2:13-22** ¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Prayer after Communion

Going to Serve

Hymn *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;

Be thou forever with me, my master and my friend;

I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, Nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel you near me! The world is ever near;

I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;

My foes are ever near me, around me and within; but Jesus, thou draw nearer and shield my soul from sin

O Jesus thou hast promised to all who follow thee

That where thou art in glory there shall your servant be

And, Jesus, I have promised, to serve thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

Charge and Benediction

Music License: One License A-732604