

Toll free call in number! (844) 855-4444, access code 654132# (conference call only)

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live



Worship, March 13, 2022, 11:15 am

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candle

Centering Music

+Call to Worship

L: Today is a day to sing praise to God!

P: God continually blesses us, each and every day.

L: Even in the midst of cold and darkness, the warmth of God's love is real.

P: We can count on God to be here for us.

L: Let your hearts rejoice and your voices shout praise to God.

P: For God is great and worthy to be praised. Amen.

Let us pray: **God of promises fulfilled, we gather as descendants of Abraham; we stand before you as faithful testimony to your covenant; we assemble as living proof that your love for humanity knows no limits. When we feel overwhelmed by the stresses of daily life, we need only look at the stars in the sky to remember your abiding faithfulness. When we are overcome with despair by the pain of war and poverty in our world, we need only see the light of a single candle to remember the one you sent as our light, our strength, and our salvation. We pray now in the name of that light, Jesus Christ, 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.**

www.Ministrymatters.com

+Song: *The God of Abraham Praise (488)*

Call to Confession

This is the proof of God's great love: while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Trusting in God's grace, let us make our confessions to 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.)

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: God's love has been poured into your hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 235-236). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Response of Praise *Bless the Lord, My Soul (2013) (3x)*

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

The Peace

Anthem *Carol for Lent* by Eugene Butler

Hearing the Word**Prayer for Illumination**

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 237). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Scripture Reading Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. ⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. ¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Hymn *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem (308)*

Gospel Reading Luke 13:31-35 ³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Sermon**Responding to the Word**

Affirmation of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Offering Prayer

In response to God's goodness, let us give thanks to God. Let us pray:

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. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who is the light of the world. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Chorus (all): *Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts (2x)*

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

Holy is the Lord!

You are holy, O God of majesty...that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 387). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Communion of the People

Chorus (all): *Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and you will not hunger*

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

Prayer After Communion

Taking the Word into the World

+Song: *The Servant Song (2222)*

+Charge and Benediction

+Stand as you are able

HYMNS

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 blessed.
 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.

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
 And of the news that came to them from angels in the air.
 The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;
 Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing away.

O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy,
 O sing of fragrant flowers breath, and of the sinless boy.
 For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow;
 Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.

O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
 Of him who walked upon the sea and bade its waves be still;
 For though, like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll;
 When faith has heard the master's word, falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay;
 Of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away;
 For he how died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
 And Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.

The Servant Song

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
 Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too,

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on this road;
 We are here to help each other walk the mile and share the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear;
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
 I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
 born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony. (Repeat v. 1)