



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent 22 March 2020, 9:30 a.m

(Live streaming or a recording of the service is available by clicking the appropriate link on the church web page <http://www.firstprescdale.org>)

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRAYER IN PREPARATION

Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see?
Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us,
and bear fruit in us. Touch us so that we are utterly changed a "before" and "after,"
a "now" and "then"; that we may also say,
"One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."
Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ's light, we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

One: We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.

All: Thanks be to God!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

One: We give thanks to God for these blessings.

All: Thanks be to God!

One: For all these people and all who are in need

All: Please hold your people near, O God!

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

One: The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I lack.

All: God guides me in proper paths for the sake of God's good name.

One: God bathes my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over!

All: Yes, God's goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

One: Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn.
Bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.
Especially we thank you for: the beauty of your creation,
the new creation in Christ, all gifts of healing and forgiveness,
the sustaining love of family and friends, and the fellowship of faith in your church.

**All: Merciful God of might, renew this weary world,
heal the hurts of all your children and bring about your peace for all.
In Christ Jesus the Lord. Amen.**

*CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Call to Confession

One: As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord:
to participate in what is good and right and true,
and expose what is unfruitful and evil.
Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God,
so that what is hidden in us becomes visible,
and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

Prayer of Confession

One: Let us pray

All: Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light.
We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others.
We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable,
but step back, protecting ourselves.
Forgive us, we pray.
Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly.
Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved.
Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin,
and shine upon us with your grace.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us,
even pursue us, all the days of our life.
As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy,
and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

Giving of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you all!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds
as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed,
so that by the power of your Holy Spirit
we may see what is good and right and true.
And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you,
so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds.
In Christ's name, we pray.

All: Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Safe in Your Arms
Carlyn Zimmermann, soloist

Mark Hayes

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE (Responsive)

Psalms 23 p. 501 OT

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

I Shall Dwell in the House of the Lord Forever

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Apostles Creed

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

I believe 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

Sentences

One: Our lives overflow with the goodness of God.
Sharing what we have so abundantly received,
we bring now our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

Please, as you are financially able, continue to contribute to the life and ministry of the church through your gifts. Give through direct deposit or by sending checks in the mail.

***Doxology 606**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Prayer of Dedication**

One: In gratitude, O God, we come to your table, into your presence, into your house.
For all that you have done for us, most especially, for bringing us
into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise.
We long to live as children of light,
doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light
through Jesus Christ, who awakens those who sleep,
and raises those who are dead to new life.
In his name we pray.

All: Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: God inspires us to pray, hears our prayers, and answers our prayers.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

One: Let us pray....

Silent Prayer

One: Let us pray together the Lord's Prayer...

**All: 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.**

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE