



*Virtual Worship Service for the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany*  
*Crossnore Presbyterian Church*  
*Sunday, January 31, 2021*

**Welcome and Announcements (separate PDF attachment)**

Welcome to Crossnore Presbyterian Church as we gather together virtually in the snowy mountains of NC and wherever this service finds you this morning. Although separated physically, we gather as the Body of Christ to worship and praise the Triune God. Today, our worship is going to be centered on music, especially some hymns that are familiar and some that may be new to you. In addition to our singing together, we have 3 soloists who will be sharing one of their favorite hymns with you as well. I hope that this time of worship will refresh you and renew your spirit in this season of winter and pandemic. And maybe it will leave you singing or humming a hymn tune that you love as you prepare for a new week.

**We elected three new elders for the class of 2023 this past Sunday and Carroll Berkley will be installed and Linda Drivas and Gene Hodges will be ordained and installed next Sunday, February 7, during our worship service.** Doing this virtually will be a challenge but we are up to the task. Please keep them in your prayers as they commit themselves to God for a deeper leadership role in the life of Crossnore Presbyterian Church.

**Let me give you an update on our prayer list:**

**Bill Bagby**, a longtime member of our church, passed away peacefully this past Tuesday morning. A brief memorial service for the family will be held Monday afternoon. A Celebration of Bill's Life for the church and the community will be held when we can gather together safely.

**Dawn Bates** had her second knee replaced this past Friday and is at home recovering.

Please take time to read the rest of the announcements and the prayer request list so that you can add these people to your own prayer list.

**Choral Call to Worship: *All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100)***

Text: William Kethe, 1560; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Sing along with 8,000 person congregation at Sing! 2018:

<https://www.facebook.com/gettymusic/videos/697708327368955/>

All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the LORD with cheerful voice;  
Serve him with joy, his praises tell,  
come now before him and rejoice!

Know that the LORD is God indeed;  
he formed us all without our aid.  
We are the flock he surely feeds,  
the sheep who by his hand were made.

O enter then his gates with joy,  
within his courts his praise proclaim!

Let thankful songs your tongues employ.  
O bless and magnify his name!

Because the LORD our God is good,  
his mercy is forever sure.  
His faithfulness at all times stood  
and shall from age to age endure.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above he heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**Introduction to Our Service of Music:**

The Bible is full of verses about worshipping God and one book of the Bible is dedicated to the psalms "songs of worship" that would have been sung in the Temple and in the synagogue. Let me share one of those songs with you from Psalm 96:

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
 Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.  
 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.  
 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.  
 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.  
 Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.  
 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.  
 Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.  
 Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.  
 He will judge the peoples with equity."  
 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
 let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
 before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.  
 He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

This morning we are going to have a special worship service centered on praising God with singing! Psalm 96 was sung in the temple thousands of years ago when the Jewish people gathered to worship and sing praises to Yahweh and continues to be sung today.

Most of us have been raised on songs of praise, especially hymns, and some of us were too young to know what the words meant, but we learned the tunes and eventually the words brought scripture passages to life and these hymns settled deep within our souls for a lifetime. In times of joy, in times of sorrow, in times of doubt, I know a hymn is on my tongue before I even realize it.

This morning we are going to share in singing familiar hymns and listen to our soloists as they share of their favorite hymns. I hope you will sing along and remember one of your favorite hymns and why that hymn is so important to your faith and your life. I am delighted that the writer of Psalm 96 included all of creation in worshipping God: Earth rejoicing, the sea roaring, the fields exulting, and the trees singing for joy. May we discover the song of nature as we remember our own praises to God.



**Hymn of Praise # 12 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise***

**Charlotte Davila and Bobby Taylor**

**Text:** Walter Charles Smith, 1867; **Music:** Welsh folk melody

**No Zoom:** Sing along with Halifax Minster: <https://youtu.be/spE-BE23qxA>

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
 in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes;  
 most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
 almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.  
 In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
 We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
 and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
 nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
 thy justice like mountains high soaring above,  
 thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and  
 love.**

**Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.  
 Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
 All praise we would render; O help us to see  
 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.**

**Prayer of Confession: Psalm 51, selected verses**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
 according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.  
 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.  
You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.  
Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.  
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.  
For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.  
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

### **Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 103, selected verses**

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

### **Special Music sung by Bobby Taylor: *My Life Flows On***

Text and Music: Robert Lowry, 1869

No Zoom? Sing along with Audrey Assad: <https://youtu.be/Li2hddmy63U>

**My life flows on in endless song;  
Above earth's lamentation,  
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn  
That hails a new creation**

**Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul,  
How can I keep from singing?**

**What though my joys and comforts die?  
I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth.**

**No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that refuge clinging.**

**Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth  
How can I keep from singing?**

**I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin,  
I see the blue above it,  
And day by day this pathway smooths,  
Since first I learned to love it,**

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
A fountain ever springing.  
For all things are mine since I am his,  
How can I keep from singing?**

**No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that refuge clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth  
How can I keep from singing?**



### **Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:19**

Paul instructs the church of Ephesus to use music as they relate to one another and mature in Christ: "... speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." These exaltations to engage their hearts in song is a part of Paul's guidance for the church as they learn to turn away from old ways of life that sowed division and hurt. Instead of bickering and

grumbling, music would help them “walk in the way of love.” And singing continues to connect us and inspire us to be God’s people, the Body of Christ, sharing love and hope and peace and joy.

**Special Music sung by Maggie Lauterer: *Blest Be the Tie that Binds***

Text: John Fawcett, 1782; Music: Johann Georg Nageli, 1828, arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

No Zoom? Sing along with Burbank First UMC Choir: <https://youtu.be/ZFAkaQh3QoI>

**Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.**

**We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear;  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.**

**Before our Father’s throne,  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts, and our cares.**

**When we asunder part,  
It gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in heart,  
And hope to meet again.**

**Prayer of the Day:**

God of harmony and majesty,

We praise you for your mighty power of love overflowing with compassion that is beyond anything we can fully understand and yet, as close as our breath, as our song. We praise you for your marvelous works, your wonderful deeds, which are the overflow of the boundless joy of your heart. How can we keep from singing, as we ponder the magnificence of your creation?

You have made all things for your glory and for our joy. We praise you for the rhythmic sound of waves crashing on the shorelines of the world; the song of birds and the song of the leaves blown by the wind; the spontaneous “Aahhh” we offer after savoring the first cup of coffee and the last bite of a favorite dessert.

We praise you for the transforming gift of music—the voice of our hearts. For grand symphonies, which take the chaos of random notes and create beauty and harmony; for the bluegrass tunes of fiddle, flat-top guitar, dobro, mandolin, harmonica—calling us onto the dance floor of life; for the gut-wrenching, story-telling, expression of “the blues”; for the deep improvisational roots of jazz; for the tunes that we hum bringing a moment of joy to our daily living—we thank you for all the sounds of music that praise you, O God, and reach the depths of our souls.



Instill in us all a new and bold song of faithfulness as we minister to loved ones and neighbors in need. Send us beyond our church with a song of triumphant joy that our very lives may witness to the world with gladness and courage. Renew each of us with your everlasting song of grace that, even in our shortcomings and faults, the world will still recognize the power of your love to redeem and restore all with resurrection life as its sweet refrain.

We lift up all who are suffering this day in body, mind, or spirit, who need loved ones to sing the song of grace and healing they have forgotten. We lift up all those on our prayer list, especially June Bagby and her family in the passing of Bill Bagby, her husband and partner in life for 72 years. We offer you those names that are on our hearts this day... We pray all in the name of Christ who taught his disciples to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Special Music sung by Mel Wilhite: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower***

Text and Music: Natalie Sleeth, 1986

No Zoom? Sing along with Ashley Wagner: <https://youtu.be/kSBMdEliOsw>

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.



**Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:**

One of the ways we praise God is by offering the gifts of our lives for God's service. At this time in our worship we bring to God our offerings in deep gratitude for the multitude of ways that God has blessed our lives in the past week. Let us receive this morning's offering.

**Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

Living God, we offer our gifts to you this day in gratitude for your faithfulness in our lives and in your world even when we have not always been faithful. Fill us with your melody of love and service as we walk into a new week. May we listen for the song of creation and join our voices in praising and glorifying you in all we say and all we do. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

**Closing Hymn # 39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

Charlotte Davila and Bobby Taylor

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; Music: William Marion Runyan, 1923

No Zoom? Sing along with: <https://youtu.be/dTKIqmdfHsk>

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not,  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. (Refrain)

**Refrain:**

Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness;  
morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.  
(Refrain)

**Charge and Benediction:**

The peace of God be in your heart, the grace of God be in your words,  
the love of God be in your hands, the joy of God be in your soul,  
and in the song that your life sings.

Go with God's peace and grace and love and joy  
and share the song of your life in Christ with others.

**Postlude: *It Is Well With My Soul***

Sing along with Acapeldridge: <https://youtu.be/ZYrL9ea1XUg>

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain:

It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul. (Refrain)

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (Refrain)

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul. (Refrain)

