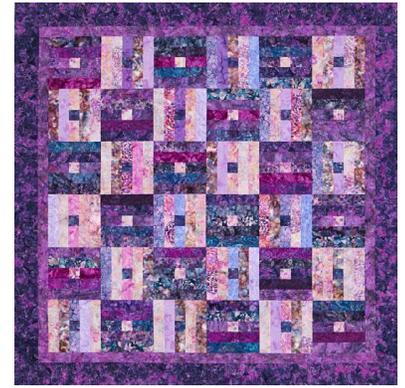


*Virtual Worship Service  
for the Second Sunday in Lent  
Crossnore Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, February 28, 2021*



**Welcome and Announcements: (PDF Attachment)**

Our worship leaders this morning are Rev. Kathy Campbell, Charlotte Davila, Michael Richardson, Bobby Taylor, and Jim Taylor.

**Choral Call to Worship # 468 *In My Life***

Sing along with: <https://youtu.be/tdMXa-2Tz68>

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
in your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
in your world, Lord, be glorified today.

**Call to Worship: Psalm 100**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

**Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

**Hymn of Praise # 213 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory***

Sing along with First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE: <https://youtu.be/onJLwQS8dR0>

In the cross of Christ I glory,  
towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me.  
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming  
light and love upon my way,  
from the cross the radiance streaming  
adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
by the cross are sanctified;

peace is there that knows no measure,  
joys that through all time abide.  
In the cross of Christ I glory,  
towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.



**Call to Confession:**

God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other.

**Unison Prayer of Confession:**

**Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives: The fear that stifles us, the prejudice that blinds us, the ignorance that hobbles us, the doubt that plagues us. Help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely place, see the world with new and gracious eyes, move to those places where love is needed, and have faith that you are with us (moment of silent confession). This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God!  
**Alleluia! Amen.**

**Hymn # 462 *I Love to Tell the Story* (verse one)**

Sing along with First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE: <https://youtu.be/onJLwQS8dRO>  
(the verses are sung one verse at a time)

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

**Refrain:**

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

**Scripture Reading and Music Meditation: Matthew 5:3-9, "Blessed Are They"**

**Michael Richardson**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**(Read Michael Richardson's Meditation on PDF Attachment)**

**Hymn # 462 *I Love to Tell the Story* (verse two)**

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

**Refrain:**

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

**Scripture Reading & Meditation: John 8:1-11**      **Jim Taylor**

Then each of them went home, while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery.



Kathleen Peterson "Sand Script"

Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

**(Read Jim Taylor's Meditation on PDF Attachment)**

**Hymn # 462 I Love to Tell the Story (verse three)**

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

**Refrain:**

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

**Affirmation of Faith:**

**The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.**

**His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for all**

**when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.**

**In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to people,  
moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience,  
and initiates the new life in Christ.**

**The new life takes shape in a community  
in which we know that God loves and accepts us  
in spite of what we are.**

**We therefore accept ourselves and love others,  
knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand,  
except God's grace.**

**(Confession of 1967, 9.21, 22)**

**Special Music: *Softly and Tenderly* sung by Alan Jackson:**

<https://youtu.be/KkRTfrLBii0>



### **Prayers of the People (inspired by Psalm 23):**

Gentle Shepherd, within your embrace we are safe and secure.  
Within your embrace we know that we are precious in your sight.  
Within your embrace we feel the warmth of family and belonging.  
Within your embrace we grow and are nurtured together as one flock,  
the people of your pasture under your loving care and protection.  
We give you our thanks and praise for all the ways you love us  
and protect us.

Healing Comforter, within your embrace we find comfort and healing.  
We bring to you those who are struggling with physical, mental or spiritual health.  
You are the great healer, and we pray for healing of mind and body and soul  
for those on our prayer list  
and those we now name in the silence of our hearts.

God of Righteousness, within your embrace we find justice.  
We bring to you the brave voices who cry out for freedom,  
those prepared to stand up and be heard without counting the cost.  
We pray for those who have been imprisoned or tortured  
for their race, gender, or faith.  
We pray for all who have taken up the cross and know its weight and pain.  
May your unending presence and power  
strengthen all who work towards your kingdom.

Prince of Peace, within your embrace we find peace.  
We bring to you those who are orphaned, crippled or dispossessed by war,  
for refugees wandering this earth in search of a home,  
for all victims of violence,  
and for all those who have dedicated their lives  
for the search for peace and reconciliation.  
May we find ways to be peacemakers in our own families and communities.

Eternal God, you hear all who call out to you  
and we bring our own personal petitions before you...

We bring all the prayers spoken and unspoken  
in the name of Jesus 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.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
Forever. Amen.

### **Presentation of Our Tithes and Offering:**

There's a difference between planning and preparation.  
We can't plan the future that God holds,  
but we can prepare for each day by practices of generosity.

Generosity helps us to forgive and to heal;  
it helps us to make peace in the world;  
it helps to bring justice and mercy to those in need.  
Our gifts this morning are one way we prepare  
for God's coming into the world in the most unexpected ways.  
Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

**Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

**God of the Cross, in losing our lives we find them in you. In sharing our money and time, we receive the blessings of your Kingdom. Use these gifts toward your holy work of peace, justice, and service in the world. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn # 313 *Lord, Make Us More Holy***

Sing along with: [https://youtu.be/LjwiniTNU\\_o](https://youtu.be/LjwiniTNU_o)

Lord, make us more holy; Lord, make us more holy;  
Lord, make us more holy, until we meet again:  
holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.

Lord, make us more loving; Lord, make us more loving;  
Lord, make us more loving, until we meet again:  
“

Lord, make us more patient; Lord, make us more patient;  
Lord, make us more patient, until we meet again:  
patient, patient, patient, until we meet again.

Lord, make us more faithful; Lord, make us more faithful;  
Lord, make us more faithful, until we meet again:  
faithful, faithful, faithful, until we meet again.

**Charge and Benediction:**

Take time this week to read one of your favorite passages  
or stories in the Bible  
and reflect on why that passage is important to your life and faith  
and thank God for sacred words that shape and mold  
your life in Christ.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you, be with all of us,  
and be with our world now and forever. Amen.



"Children Reading" by Pekka Halonen

**Postlude: *A Celtic Prayer* by Barry Peters, sung by the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City:**

<https://youtu.be/RJmxF-txkEg>