

Virtual Worship Service
the Third Sunday in the Lenten Season
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
Sunday, March 7, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer and Call to Worship:

O God, you are the gathering one who calls us into community with each other to love and work, to support and heal.

You are the gathering one who calls us into community with all people; to bring justice and hope, freedom and truth.

You are the gathering one who calls us into community with the whole creation; to live in harmony, to cherish and renew.

Let us worship the God who makes us one.

Hymn of Praise # 625 *O Lord My God – (How Great Thou Art) verses 1 & 2*

https://youtu.be/m4_LMlLa9KI - Chris Rice

**1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: [Refrain]**

**3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin: [Refrain]**

**4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]**

Call to Confession:

God longs for relationship, and through relationship to transform the world into the kingdom. When we confess our sin, we find our relationship with God renewed and our life turned again to God's way. Let us pray together.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

God, we think we know what you want, and we try our best to follow the rules. So often, though, we are seduced by our own desire for answers, for black-and-white lists of do's and don'ts. We like to believe we can earn, or even buy, our way into your kingdom. We confess our need to control, and pray for your forgiveness when we impose our rules on you and on others. We confess that we like things the way they are, and pray for your forgiveness when the status quo keeps some away from you, even as it benefits us. Turn over the tables in our hearts, minds, and churches, and make room for your grace to dwell (moment of silent confession). We pray in the name of the One who disrupts the world with love, Jesus the Christ.

Assurance of Pardon:

Friends, hear this good news: only Christ is in a position to judge, and his very nature is mercy. If anyone is in Christ, the whole creation is made new, filled with hope and grace, infused with forgiveness.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

First Lesson: Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.
The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Second Lesson: John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making 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. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his

body. After 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: "Prelude"

Barbara Ross, CLP

Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from "Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide," Patmos Abbey

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.**

**We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,
and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,
and that our path leads to an eternal glory we cannot yet imagine.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.
Amen**

Hymn of Meditation # 625 *O Lord My God – (How Great Thou Art) verses 3 & 4*

https://youtu.be/PdE_NKyY_o0 - Winchester Cathedral

**1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin: [Refrain]**

**4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]**

Prayers of the People:

We pray for the Church throughout the world, for the whole People of God, that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ. We pray for the mission of this church, that in faithful witness we may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, proclaiming a Gospel of love and justice.

God of love, hear our prayer.

We pray for those drawing near to the light of faith, that they may be brought to the true knowledge of you; we pray for our families and friends, that you will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do; we pray for the whole human family, that we may live together with justice and mercy.

God of love, hear our prayer.

We pray for peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples; we pray for our country, that we will help contribute to its true growth and well-being; we pray for good weather, and for abundant harvests of land and sea for all to share.

God of love, hear our prayer.

We pray for those in positions of power and influence during this time of a pandemic, that what they do will benefit humanity; whether they are doing research, creating policies and protocols, planning distribution, making calls, administering vaccines or waiting in line – that you strengthen all who give their energy for the wellbeing of the whole community.

God of love, hear our prayer.

We pray for the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected; we pray for all whom we have injured or offended, and for grace to amend our lives and to further your reign.

God of love, hear our prayer.

We pray for those we know who are ill at home or in the hospital, especially:

And for others we may name out loud or in our hearts...

that they may experience the healing and renewing touch of Jesus.

God of love, hear our prayer.

God of the covenant, you call us to be fruitful servants of creation, and to offer our lives as the foundation of your realm. May the prayers we offer be a channel for new and abundant life for the whole earth. 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.

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 Offerings:

Just as Christ has taught the way of life to us, we have the responsibility of bringing life to the world around us through our ministries and the outreach of our missions. Let us offer gratefully and sacrificially to the work of God who has given all for us.

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Make us foolish enough in our generosity, O God, that we might become wise enough to know that our gifts will bless others - the hungry, the lonely, the searching, the weak. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

<https://youtu.be/ErwiBz1QA4o> - Maranatha Music

**1 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.**

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!**

**2 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]**

**3 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:

Remember you are God's beloved.

The Holy Spirit lives in you.

Christ's compassion shines forth in what you do.

Live as those who know and have experienced God's goodness.

Go now in peace.