

Virtual Worship Service
Fifth Sunday in the Season of Lent
Sunday, March 21, 2021
Crossnore Presbyterian Church

Choral Call to Worship # 626 *As the Deer*

Text and Music: Martin J. Nystrom, 1984

Sing along with Maranatha!: <https://youtu.be/IOUQoBS8Sks>

As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after thee.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship thee.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship thee.

You're my friend and you are my brother even though you are a King.
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship thee.

I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship thee.

Call to Worship:

Friends, let us worship God today, for God is great –
God has blessed us with life, with faith, and with community.
Let us worship God today, for God is good –
God forgives us, and encourages us, and loves us.
Let us worship God today –
Because we are God's people.
Let us worship God.

Hymn of Praise # 3 *Wonderful Merciful Savior*

Text and Music: Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse

Sing along with *Sounds Like Reign*: <https://youtu.be/72mzKbEAP5g>

Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend;
who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?
Oh, you rescue the souls of men.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;
you offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way,
oh, we hopelessly lost the way.

Refrain:

You are the One that we praise, you are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,
oh, our hearts always hunger for.

Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving your own;
here in our weakness you find us falling before your throne,
oh, we're falling before your throne. (Refrain)

Call to Confession:

When we seek God's mercy, we draw close the mystery of faith: love that cannot be undone by our sin. Trusting that God is grace, let us offer to God the truth of our lives as we share in the Unison Prayer of Confession:

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives and we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Even though the future is clouded; God is with us, guiding, healing, comforting, restoring. Rejoice! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and healed. Amen.

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 647 Give Thanks

Text and Music: Henry Smith, 1978

Sing along with Fatima Sorono: https://youtu.be/Bk_7wUR2Wdg

**Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the**

**And now let the weak say, "We are strong",
let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" (Repeat)
And now let the weak say, "We are strong",
let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" (Repeat)
Give thanks. Give thanks.**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Special Music: *The Old Rugged Cross* sung by Alan Jackson: <https://youtu.be/-JS9P8d2iOc>

Second Lesson: John 12:20-26

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Sermon: "An Authentic Life"

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of Meditation # 697 *Take My Life*

Text: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874; Music: H. A. Cesar Malan, 1827

Sing along with Worship 4 You: <https://youtu.be/H6MMgMeFlxY>

(follow the words on screen—they are different from the traditional hymn)

**Take my life and let it be always only all for thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hand and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing always only for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with message from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it thine; it shall be longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own. It shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.**

Prayers of the People

God, your faithful love surrounds us, and we give you thanks for the gift of life, and the gift of new life, and for the many ways you sustain and nurture us. We come before you this day, some of us tired and hungry, looking for your word to sustain us, your spirit to comfort us. Some of us come bruised and sore, looking for healing, longing for wholeness. Some of us come despairing, wondering what has happened and where the joy of life has gone. Some of us come with heavy hearts, praying for young people harmed by those who should protect, praying for those who look different and so are suspect, praying for a world on edge, tense with fear and hate and violence.

We come, looking for good news in the midst of the world's bad news. We come, seeking forgiveness for our wrongs, seeking to know your presence when we feel so alone, seeking to know your heart and will for a world with so much need. In the silence, we offer you our prayers, and we listen for yours (moment to share our personal prayers and listen to God's word for us).

Let your grace rain down on us, O God. May we be surrounded by your love, your peace, your hope. Open our eyes and our hearts to see you in unexpected places, guide our hands to show your love. You are a God of

surprises, a God of peace, a God of hope, a God of love. Fill us with your spirit, that we may widen the circle until all the world knows your grace. We pray these and all things in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray together...Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

And now, not because we have to, but because we are grateful, let us return to God what is ours to share. Let us joyfully offer our time, our treasure, our commitment, our prayers.

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Glorious God, you sent Jesus to change our lives in bold and amazing ways. Yet, we often are consumed by the pettiness of our own "to do" lists. As we place this offering before you, help us to surrender completely to your love and to be stirred into fruit-bearing action that results in faithful stewardship. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 215 *What Wondrous Love Is This*

Text: American folk hymn, 1811; Music: Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835

Sing along with *Sounds Like Reign*: <https://youtu.be/oVNktRGU3As>

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Charge and Benediction:

May the beauty of God be reflected in your eyes,
the love of God be reflected in your hands,
the wisdom of God be reflected in your words,
and the knowledge of God flow from your heart,
that all might see, and seeing, believe.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you and with all of creation.
Go in holy peace and serve the Lord with joy. Amen.

Postlude: *Abide With Me*

Sung by King's College Choir, Cambridge: <https://youtu.be/deJDkU6qiGE>