

Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day
The Third Sunday of the Lenten Season, March 20, 2022
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386
Crossnore, NC 28616



Welcome and Church Family News (PDF attachment)

Choral Call to Worship # 4 *Spirit Song* (Songs of Worship)

words/music by John Wimber

Sing along with Polk Street United Methodist Church: <https://youtu.be/AnFTGi8SgHE>

Oh let the Son of God enfold you
With His Spirit and His love
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul
Oh let Him have those things that hold you
And His Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole

Refrain:

Jesus oh Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs
Jesus oh Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs
Oh come and sing this song with gladness
As your hearts are filld with joy
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name
Oh give Him all your tears and sadness
Give Him all your years of pain
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name

Refrain

Call to Worship: (from Psalm 63)
Your steadfast love, O Lord, is better than life.
Therefore our lips will praise you.
We will bless you as long as we live.
We will lift up our hands and call on your name.
For you have been our help
and in your presence we sing for joy.

Hymn of Praise # 307 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

Sing along with the Grosse Pointe (Michigan) Memorial Church Virtual Choir, James Biery, organ:

<https://youtu.be/u9rWrw3XB08>

God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

Call to Confession:

Let us humbly approach God's throne of grace to confess our sins
and present ourselves honestly before our Savior.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, you give us chance after chance to do right and bear good fruit. But we continue to stray from your path of righteousness, losing ourselves in the wilderness of sin. Gracious God, return us to you this Lent. Receive us. Redeem us. Transform us into the disciples you deserve (moment of silent confession). In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Our God is a loving God, full of mercy. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Believe in this forgiveness, be at peace, and share the love you have graciously received. Amen.

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 649 *Amazing Grace*

AMAZING GRACE

Sing along with Alan Jackson: <https://youtu.be/ogxLNlgKM8c>

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun

Ordination and Installation of the 2024 Class of Ruling Elders:

Marie Cook and Gayle Culbreath will be ordained and installed;

Janis Kenyon and George Riggsbee are serving a second term and will be installed.

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-13 (read as litany)

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

**Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

**Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.**

Special Music: *Wayfaring Stranger*

Performed by Southern Raised: <https://youtu.be/hCp4ej5StKQ>

Second Lesson: Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Sermon: "God Who Never Gives Up" (PDF attachment)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

***Affirmation of Faith: (Rom. 8:1, 28, 38, 39)**

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn of Meditation # 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

Sing along with: <https://youtu.be/ygkkX9FxFg0> - provided by Orchard Enterprises

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failing have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.**

Prayers of the People:

Living God, whose son Jesus conquered death and lives forever,
giving us cause for hope we hold before you those places and situations in our world
which seem lifeless and hopeless.

We bring before you in prayer those who farm against the odds.
We pray for those whose crops, livelihoods and futures are in jeopardy through drought or flood.
We pray for those who go without or have to pay inflated prices which they can ill afford
in order to feed their families.

We pray, living God, pour out your life-giving Spirit.

We pray for those in positions of authority and responsibility.
We pray for those who have abused those positions of power for their own gain.
We pray for those who feel let down, disappointed and cynical by corrupt and abusive practices.
We pray for those who feel their voice and plight is ignored by the world.

We pray, living God, pour out your life-giving Spirit.

We pray for your church.
We pray that you would fill all in our churches with the vision to see
where the barren parts of our church and community life might bear fruit.
We pray that we would not be afraid to prune so that new growth may shoot,
giving life and hope to us all and those we seek to reach.

We pray, living God, pour out your life-giving Spirit.

We pray for those whom we know who are in times of their lives which seem lifeless and hopeless.
We pray for those who are ill, or recovering from illness.
We pray for those who are dying and those caring for them.
We pray for those who are living with loss and grief.

We pray living God, pour out your life-giving Spirit.

And we pray for ourselves. Living God we bring to you the areas of our own lives
which are lacking life and hope.
We bring you our anger and frustrations, we bring you our fears and our lack of courage,
we bring you our anxieties and stress.
And we ask you to fill us again with your presence, peace and hope
that through our prayers and our actions, relying on you to strengthen and encourage us,
we might bring your light to a barren world waiting to burst into life.
We pray in the name of the Living Christ, who taught his disciples to pray:
Our Father...Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

This morning we have many opportunities to offer our lives, our skills, our money to Christ's ministry to those who are spiritually and physically hungry. What will you offer to God this week to be used to care for those in need? The church announcements share the special donations we as a congregation are collecting during the Lenten Season.

Doxology # 608

PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

<https://youtu.be/BKcni5iJI> - Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Gracious and Generous God, we have been called to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. May our offering of time, talents, and treasures be used to love and help those who have forgotten that God never gives up. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 697 *Take My Life* (verses 1, 3, 5)

HENDON

Sing along with the Keaton Reunion: <https://youtu.be/g5nPdAd2EEY>

**Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands 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 messages from thee.**

**Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.**

Charge and Benediction:

May the God of all Goodness and Mercy
follow you on this Lenten journey
and may the barren parts of your life
be made fruitful through the grace of Jesus Christ
and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Postlude: *Immigrant's Song*

Sung by Keith and Kristyn Getty: <https://youtu.be/iBoZwm0m6oQ>: