

Morning Worship
March 15, 2009
Third Sunday in Lent

Coming Together in Christ

10:55 AM MEDITATION (Please pause in quiet preparation for worship.)

11:00 AM CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Andante

Felix Mendelssohn

INTROIT

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.
Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear, ever constant by Your side;
That with You we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

Entering God's Presence

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 19:7-8

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

People: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.

* HYMN OF PRAISE #489

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

"Unser Herrscher"

THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

SILENCE

AMEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (together)

We confess to you, Lord, what we are: we are not the people we like others to think we are; we are afraid to admit even to ourselves what lies in the depths of our souls. But we do not want to hide our true selves from you. We believe that you know us as we are, and yet you love us. Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge; teach us to respect ourselves for your sake; give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding and power.

KYRIE ELEISON (Congregation & Choir)

#63, Lift Up Your Hearts

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy upon us. (repeat)

* THE RESPONSE IN PRAISE

#28, Lift Up Your Hearts

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! (repeat)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ANTHEM

Psalm 8

John Erickson

The Children's Choir and Congregation

Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!
The Lord is great! Ev'ry body sing, Praise the Lord, alleluia!
The Lord made us! He made the beasts, the birds in the tree,
The fish in the water and He made me!
The Lord is great! Ev'ry body sing, Praise the Lord, alleluia!

Congregation, please join in the refrain:

The image shows a handwritten musical score for a refrain. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'Praise ye the LORD' and 'Praise ye the LORD'. The second staff has three measures: 'Hal-le-lu-JAH', 'Hal-le-lu-jah', and 'Hal-le-lu-jah'. The third staff has two measures: 'Praise ye the LORD' and 'Praise the LORD al-le-lu-ia'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'Praise the LORD al-le-lu-ia' and 'Praise the LORD al-le-lu-ia'. The fifth staff has one measure: 'Praise the LORD al-le-lu-ia'. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a children's choir and congregation.

Hearing God's Word

TIME FOR CHILDREN

* HYMN OF PREPARATION #84

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

"Rathbun"

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 65:1-7

Pew Bible p. 653

SECOND LESSON:

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Pew Bible p. 156

THE ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that who so believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world; that that the world through Him might be saved.

THE SERMON

“Why the Cross? Part 2: A Martyr”

Rev. John Dillon

Our Response to God’s Love

* THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”
—lines 52-76, from “A Brief Statement of Faith” (1983)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

CHORAL AMEN

7-Fold Amen

John Stainer

WORSHIPPING THE LORD THROUGH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY SOLO

A Simple Song

Leonard Bernstein

* THE DOXOLOGY

#592, The Hymnal

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

* THE HYMN OF PARTING #83 *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*
“Deo Gracias”

* SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.)

* SUNG BENEDICTION

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Dennis

(Please join hands as we sing the Benediction)

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

Going Forth in God's Love

* THE POSTLUDE

"Fugue"

Felix Mendelssohn

* Those who wish to do so are invited to stand

Music Notes

Please join the Children's Choir in praising the Lord by singing with them at the places indicated in your bulletin.

Sir John Stainer (1840-1901) was an English composer and organist whose music was much performed during his lifetime. His work as choir trainer and organist set standards for Anglican Church Music, which are still influential. He was also active as an academic, becoming professor of music at Oxford University in 1889. Arthur Sullivan's tribute to Stainer was blunt and memorable: "He is a genius." His output of sacred music was extensive, including *The Crucifixion* (1887) and *the Sevenfold Amen*, sung today by our choir, and numerous hymn tunes. His work as composer has lost most of its critical reputation since his death. *The Crucifixion* is one of the few major works of his that is still regularly performed. It is often given in English churches during Holy Week and forms part of the repertoire of numerous choirs. "God So Loved the World" is a movement from *The Crucifixion*.

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) is generally recognized as music's most exuberant hero. Composer, conductor, pianist, teacher, humanitarian, thinker, entertainer and adventurous spirit, he forged his many talents with an irresistible personality to transform the way people everywhere hear and appreciated music. He broke rules, shattered precedents and opened doors insisting that the art of music could and should play a vital role in the lives of all people.

The solo this morning is from his 1971 composition "Mass: A Theatre Piece for Singers, Players and Dancers: Simple Song."

This Mass was a commission of Jackie Kennedy Onassis for the opening of the Kennedy Center in Washington of 1971. The work took a stunning, often controversial approach to both the art of classical composition and to the theme of the Catholic Mass. Bernstein, who was a Jew and always fascinated by the Catholic liturgy, boldly combines a large orchestra, marching band, mixed chorus, children's choir, dancers and a rock band to explore the sometimes dark, sometimes jubilant nature of the Mass. "A Simple Song" paraphrases Psalm 121 with original text by Bernstein and Stephen Schwartz with an exuberant melody and hemiola-like accompaniment.

Statement of Purpose

Our Church exists to worship God and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Spirit, we shall serve God's Kingdom by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

Statement of Vision

We embrace open and progressive theology. Through education, training, worship and Session leadership we will realize our vision both individually and in community. We will be open to new ideas and programs while staying true to our beliefs and traditions. We will commit our personal and corporate resources to embody our Statement of Purpose. We will live our lives responsibly with honesty and integrity.

About the Affirmation of Faith

The PC (USA) Book of Confessions is a collection of Confessions from the church in many ages and many different situations. Therefore, its expressions of faith cover a multitude of theological opinions, many of which are obviously influenced by who participated in their preparation and the times and customs of their era. While not necessarily agreeing with every statement precisely, our Ministers, Elders, and Deacons swear to be guided by its principles and truths. We select a passage from one of these Confessions each month to experience and explore the breadth and depth of our heritage.

For the month of March, we will be using extracts from "A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)." In 1983 the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was formed by the reunion of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and the Presbyterian Church in the United States. The *Plan for Reunion* called for preparation of a brief statement of the Reformed faith for possible inclusion in the *Book of Confessions*. It celebrates our rediscovery that for all our undoubted diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task.

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What's Happening This Week:



SUNDAY, MARCH (15)

April Newsletter Articles Due

9:00 AM	Children's Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
10:15 AM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM	Coffee Hour in the Library
11:00 AM	Worship Service, 3 rd Sunday in Lent Children's Choir Singing, On the Air WCBC
5:00 PM	GAFOSAC Youth Scoop at Queen City Creamery

MONDAY, MARCH (16)

9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Nursery School
12:00 PM	Highlanders' Luncheon at Ruby Tuesday
5:30 PM	Congregational Care Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH (17)

9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Nursery School
6:30 PM	Worship Committee Meeting
7:00 PM	Global Mission Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH (18)

9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Nursery School
6:15 PM	JoyBells Rehearsal
7:30 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH (19)

9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Nursery School
6:00 PM	Christian Education Committee Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH (20)

9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Nursery School

SUNDAY, MARCH (22)

9:00 AM	Children's Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
10:15 AM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM	Coffee Hour in the Library
11:00 AM	Worship Service, 4 th Sunday in Lent JoyBells Playing, On the Air WCBC
3:00 PM	Pipes Plus Concert in Sheperdstown, WV