

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

MARCH 14, 2021

11:00 AM



PRELUDE

VARIATIONS ON 'WONDROUS LOVE'
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

SAMUEL BARBER

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS

INTROIT

LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
NANCY HODGES, PIANO AND BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

ARR. JAMES AND STAN PETHEL

PNC UPDATE

JOSH GILHART

* CALL TO WORSHIP

DAVID STICKLER

The Lord is merciful and gracious
Slow to anger and abounding in love
The Lord of life is lifted up!
Let us look to him and live.
Let us worship God.

* HYMN #167

FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS

"AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH"

*(*Please refrain from singing the hymns, but rather hum along.)*

Musical notation for the hymn 'Forty Days and Forty Nights'. It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes.

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
2 Shall not we your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side,

for - ty days and for - ty nights temp - ted, and yet un - de - filed.
fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
that with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

CAROLYN MATHEWS

In the name of Christ, I urge you, be reconciled to God.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together.....

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God our redeemer, we confess that we are people of ashes and dust. We grumble and complain when you have provided all we need. We continue to walk in darkness when you have given light to the world. Forgive us, God of grace. Help us to trust in you so that we may not perish but may have eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

*** HUMMED RESPONSE #577**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

“KYRIE ELEISON”

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Let us work for the good of all and for those in the family of faith. Believe the good news of the Gospel.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*** HUMMED RESPONSE #582**

GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME

“GLORY TO GOD”

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

NUMBERS 21:4-9

DAVID STICKLER

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea,^[a] to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous^[a] serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

ANTHEM

ONCE UPON A RAINY DAY

BY JUBING KRISTANTO

ZACH DODGE, GUITAR

NEW TESTAMENT READING

JOHN 3:14-21

DAVID STICKLER

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

SERMON

“FROM THE WILDERNESS TO THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”

CAROLYN MATHEWS

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing.
 2 Joy - ful all you na - tions, rise.
 3 Christ by high - est heaven a - dored;
 4 Hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

light of the world. Glo - ry to the
 Join the tri - umph
 Christ, the ev - er -
 Hail, the Sun of

new - born King,
 of the skies. Je - sus, the light of the world.
 last - ing Lord;
 righ - teous - ness!

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light.
 Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright.
 O, shine all a - round us by day and by
 night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #750

GOODNESS IS STRONGER THAN EVIL

"GOODNESS IS STRONGER"

POSTLUDE

FUGUE IN E MINOR
BRYAN LOHR, ORGANJ. S. BACH
BWV 546

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
 Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Lay Speaker.....Carolyn Mathews
 Liturgist.....David Stickler
 Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
 Musicians.....Nancy Hodges, Piano and Zach Dodge, Guitar
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Ushers.....Cathy & Mike Levitas

Worship & Music Notes

Special thanks to Carolyn Mathews, ruling elder here at FPC, for being our lay speaker this morning.

Lent is the 40-day season before Easter (not including Sundays). Originally, it was a time of preparing candidates for baptism on Easter. Over the centuries it has evolved into a time devoted to renewing our understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ. We observe Lent in anticipation of the resurrection, and we celebrate Easter remembering the cost of the cross's life-giving victory. Lent began on February 17th with Ash Wednesday and concludes with Easter Sunday, April 4th.

The **Lenten worship banner** hanging in the front of the sanctuary depicts our journey with Jesus to the cross and toward the death that ultimately brings resurrection life.

Worship & Music Notes Continued

A native of West Chester, Pennsylvania, Samuel Barber (1910-1981) was one of the most celebrated American composers of the 20th century. Based on an early American hymn, **Variations on *Wondrous Love*** was his only work for the organ, written in 1958 for Richard Rocklein, organist at Christ Episcopal Church in Gross Pointe, Michigan. Barber opens the piece with the hymn tune played in its shape-note form, sounding ominous with minor and open harmonies.

Today's postlude is often referred to as the "*wedge*" fugue, because the notes of its intricate subject, or theme, form the shape of a wedge on the printed page. It is one of Bach's final compositions for the organ.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Spring is a blessing. Praise to God for spring. The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are from Carolyn Mathews. **Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund. We have flower openings for March 21st.**

OFFERING PLATES: Offering plates are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please deposit your gifts, offerings, and tithes into the plate as you enter or exit the sanctuary.

Church Office Hours

Beginning Monday, March 15th the Church Office will be open the following hours:

Monday 8:30 AM- 4:00 PM
Tuesday 8:30 AM- 1:00 PM
Wednesday 8:30 AM- 4:00 PM
Thursday 8:30 AM- 1:00 PM
Friday 8:30 AM- 1:00 PM

Please note that on days when the office closes at 1:00 PM, Brittany is still available by phone and email until 4:30 PM each day.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of February 28, 2021
Total 2021 Pledges Promised	\$192,124.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 400.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$191,724.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$27,916.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$33,858.00
Over/(Under)	\$(5,942.00)

MISSION

RULING ELDERS: AARON HENDRICKSON & LAURA FISCUS

On Easter Sunday we in this congregation have the opportunity to donate to the One Great of Sharing Offering.

The programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program—unite us in caring for the hungry, the weak and the vulnerable. Together, we work to become as Isaiah said, "repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in"—for as we always say, if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Your Answer to.... “What’s For Dinner?”

First Presbyterian Church is selling homemade soups and rolls to help fund the Annual Mission Trip to South Dakota.
Will you please consider buying some?

Name: _____

Phone: _____

	# of Quarts	X \$9	# of Pints	X \$5	Cap Rolls	x \$1 for 2	Total \$ Owed
Beef Stew							
White Chicken Chili							
Traditional Red Chili							
Vegetarian Chili							
Chicken and Rice							
Chicken Tortilla Soup							
Rolls 2 for \$1							
TOTAL							

Please pay for and pick up your soups, chili, and stews
on Sunday, March 28th after worship from 12:15-1:00 PM.

Please place your order by Sunday, March 21st.

Make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church
and write “Dakota” on the memo line.

EASTER FLOWERS 2021

If you would like to purchase flowers for the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please indicate below whether you wish to take your flowers home afterward, or if you wish them to be given to one of our in-home or nursing care members. Please indicate your selection and total below. **Orders are due by Wednesday, March 24th.**

	Price Each	Quantity	Total
Lily	\$6.00	_____	\$ _____
Tulips	\$6.00	_____	\$ _____
Hyacinths	\$6.00	_____	\$ _____
Chrysanthemums	\$6.00	_____	\$ _____
		Total	_____ \$ _____

My floral gift is in honor/memory of: _____

Given to the Glory of God by: _____

Please indicate: I would like to take my flowers home _____ I would like to donate the flowers _____

Easter Music 2021

You can also celebrate Easter by contributing to the Special Music Fund. This fund is separate from the budget and is used to pay guest musicians who provide special music during worship on holidays and throughout the year.

Note: Special Music contributions may also be given any time of the year.

Special Music Contribution _____ \$ _____

My Special Music gift is in honor/memory of: _____

Given to the Glory of God by: _____

Checks for music should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and the form returned to the church no later than **Wednesday, March 24th** if you want your dedication listed in the bulletin.

MARCH 14, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



God loves the whole world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world
Monday	Numbers 21:4-9	The serpent of bronze
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Faith is a gift from God
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 10:12-22	The essence of the law
Thursday	1 John 5:1-5	Faith conquers the world
Friday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	The song of joy
Saturday	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Sunday	John 12:20-33	The hour has come

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

John 3:16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of steadfast love, help us to remember that you hate nothing that you have created and that you love the world through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who fed the Israelites in the wilderness, we thank you for feeding us today with this food and nourishing us with your love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God who loves the world shine brightly on you with the light of Christ.



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MARCH 14, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Christ Be Our Light



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about something you really love to do.
- How do you show love for others?
- God created the whole world and loves it. What does that say about the kind of God we have?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 3:14-21.

These words from Jesus are part of a conversation he is having with Nicodemus who had come to see Jesus by night. There is a contrast here between those who love the darkness (initially Nicodemus) and those who "come to the light" (v. 21). Nicodemus would eventually be drawn to the light by defending Jesus in front of the Pharisees (John 7:53-52) and preparing Jesus' body after his crucifixion (John 19:39). In the Gospel of John, following and believing in Jesus can be a journey of coming to the light and gaining eternal life, as Nicodemus does. Darkness cannot choose light; it must be overcome by the light. The judgement of which Jesus speaks is remaining in the dark. Eternal life is having the light of Christ overcome the darkness that prevents us from seeing and loving Jesus. How has the light of Christ helped you in challenging times or times of darkness?

Pray: Merciful God, we thank you for your love for us that calls us out of darkness and to the light of Christ that we may not perish but have eternal life. Amen.

SERVICE

Numbers 21:4-9 records that God sent snakes among the people of Israel to punish them. But after Moses prayed for the people, God directed Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. When anyone who had been bitten looked at the snake, they were healed. The symbol of a snake on a pole is associated with medicine and health care. This week, plan an act of thanks and appreciation for a doctor, nurse, or medical worker in your community.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Martin Luther referred to John 3:16, the Scripture Verse for this Week, as "the gospel in miniature." *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."* This week, light a candle and read the Daily Bible Reading each day, then say the Prayer for the Week and a word of thanks for how God shows love to you and the world. End by saying: **Remember that you are God's, and to God you shall return.**



In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org