



First Presbyterian Church

1st Sunday in Lent

Order of Worship, February 21, 2021

In Person or On-line via Zoom

Greetings and Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive Reading)

People of the covenant: God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions.

God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love!

The God of our salvation teaches us right paths and leads us in truth.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness; we put our trust in God.

Let us worship God.

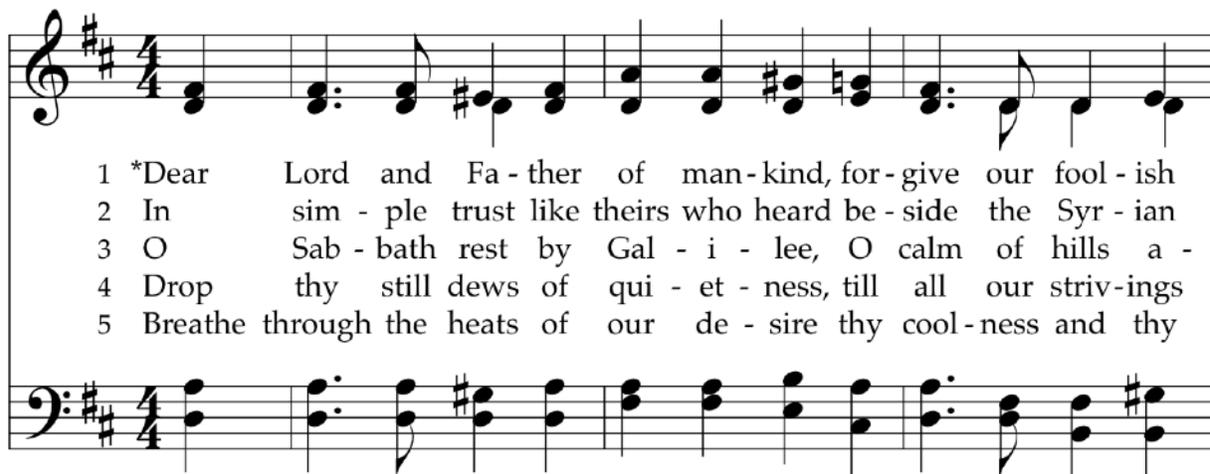
Opening Prayer

Loving God, you have made covenant with us and with every living creature. We give thanks for the sign of the rainbow, for it reminds you and us of your promise: that the flood of destruction will not be the last word. We thank you, too, for the waters of baptism, the sign that we are raised as children of the covenant; through Jesus Christ our Lord. And we thank you for the sign of the dove, the promise of your Holy Spirit. Hovering over the dawn of creation, descending upon your beloved Son, your Spirit also hovers over and descends upon us. With the whole creation, we give you all glory and honor. In your triune name we pray. Amen.

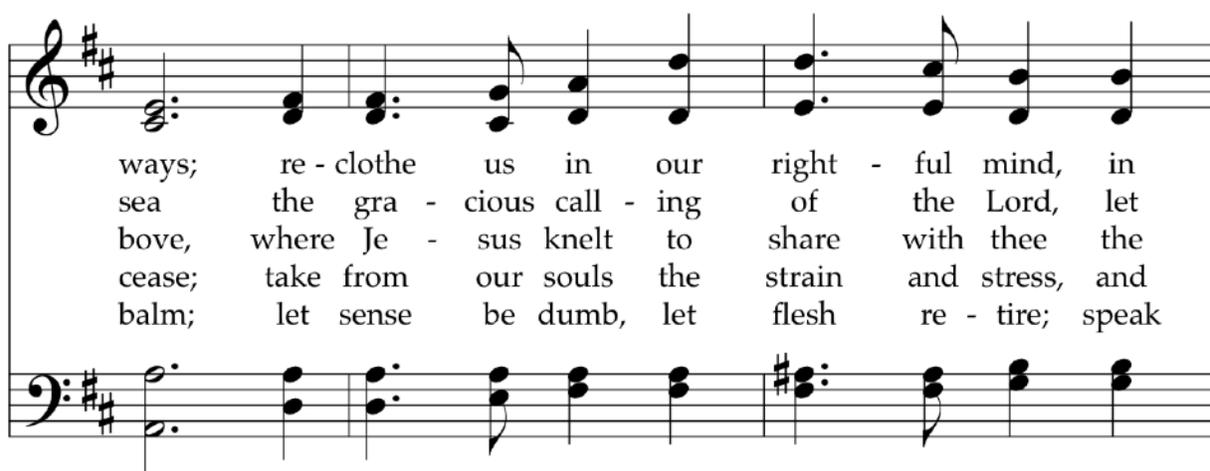
* **Hymn #169** "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

Service Note: As Christians we are commanded to love each other. In these strange days of unseen and sometimes unknown viral threat, one of the ways we do that is by protecting each other. If you choose to attend in person, our Session requires that you wear a mask and distance by family in our Sanctuary.

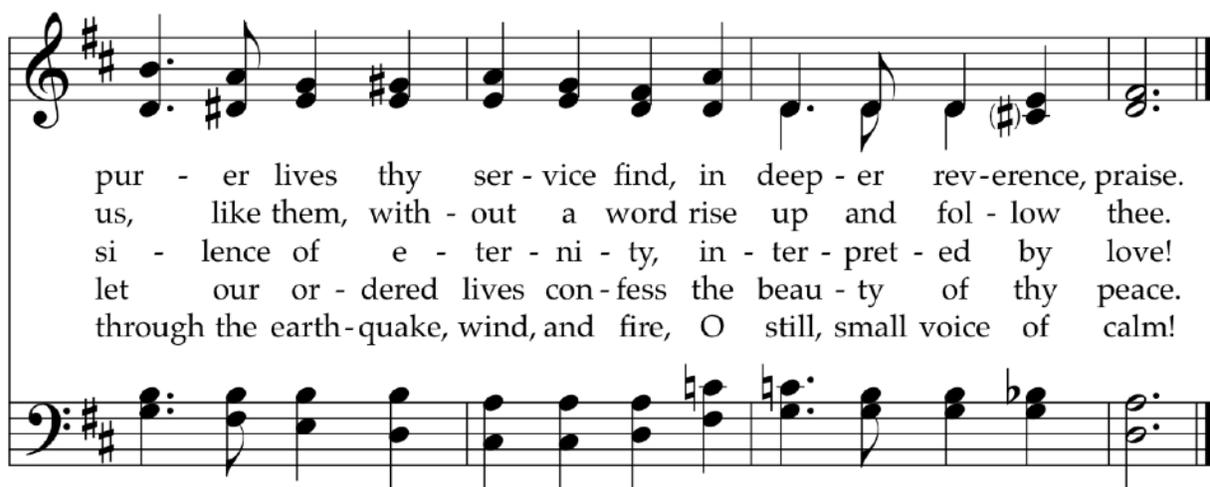
169 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind



1 *Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard be - side the Syr - ian
3 O Sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee, O calm of hills a -
4 Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
5 Breathe through the heats of our de - sire thy cool - ness and thy



ways; re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
sea the gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, let
bove, where Je - sus knelt to share with thee the
cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and
balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire; speak



pur - er lives thy ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
us, like them, with - out a word rise up and fol - low thee.
si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love!
let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of thy peace.
through the earth - quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm!

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God. Let us bow before God, our Creator and Redeemer, and confess our sin.

LITANY OF PENITENCE: (Responsive Reading)

(All) **Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

(One) We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives, Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
we confess to you, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
accept our repentance, O God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Assurance of pardon

God in Christ is steadfast in love and mercy. So friends, hear the good news of the gospel. In Christ we are forgiven and set free from the sins that bind and enslave us. We are empowered to love God with all of who we are, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Thanks be to God. The Peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

An Introduction to the Word for all Ages

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, in rushing waters and in dry wilderness, in every season and circumstance, we need your sustaining word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, proclaim the good news among us today so that we may repent and believe and see anew how the time is fulfilled and the kingdom has come near; in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Old Testament Reading **Genesis 9:8-17**

Epistle Reading: **1 Peter 3:18-22**

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading: **Mark 1:9-15**

Sermon: "With Animals and Angels"

* Hymn # 166 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

Lord, Who throughout These 166 Forty Days

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

Affirmation of Faith - (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 sits 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.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Holy God, we pray that you would empower us with courage and faithfulness as we embark on this Lenten journey. We seek renewal and restoration during these 40 days. Help us to remember Jesus' faithfulness in the wilderness, tempted by Satan. Be with us in our temptation. Let your grace follow us and go before us in each step of this journey. Enable us to accept spiritual disciplines for this journey. Let us pray daily and be especially attentive to the needs of others, and to our own needs.

God of the nations, we pray for peace with justice throughout the world, so that all your children may dwell secure, free of war and injustice. Move the hearts of leaders throughout the world to hear the cries of the poor and hungry, and to ensure a rightful share of the resources needed to sustain life.

We lift up those who have suffered during the winter storms this last week and who now deal with loss and repairs. Grant them grace and comfort as they recover. And as we continue to grapple with pandemic challenges, we pray that you would grant special measures of strength and endurance to healthcare workers and other essential workers who labor on the frontlines of this struggle. And we pray for all who are now facilitating vaccination and for those who are providing the vaccines. We pray for your comfort for all who are sick and for all who have lost loved ones. Grant us all wisdom and courage for the living of this hour. We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying,

“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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

Call to Stewardship

In Lent, we remember the gifts of nourishment that God gives us during our wilderness journey. Let us now share our gifts in joyful response to God's sustaining grace.

Offertory - Janice Shinn

(We are called to share good things with others - but not the virus, so you will find the offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary. You are invited to place your offering there as you leave the service today.)

Prayer of Dedication

O God, giver of all good gifts, may the gifts we offer here today bear the fruits of peace, love, and justice in our community and our world. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

As we journey in Lent, let us be empowered to follow in the way of Jesus, who, though tempted, was steadfast in love and faithful in the way of justice. So, let us lift up the brokenhearted and stand with the oppressed. Let us love God with our whole lives and love our neighbors as ourselves.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always. Amen

Parting Song: "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from the Book of Common Worship and from liturgy written by Roger Gench, © Presbyterian Outlook, 2021 and provided for free distribution.