



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
First Sunday in Lent  
21 February 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

**Welcome and Announcements** Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

**Voluntary** Prelude in the Dorian Mode Jean Langlais

**\*Ringing of the Bell** *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

**\*Call to Worship** Julie Pittman McDonough and Jeanne Pittman

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 as we follow Christ on the Lenten path.

**Lenten Candle Service** As we extinguish the first Lenten candle, we remember the covenant of colors in the rainbow and Christ's journey to the cross. We reflect on the wonders of a God who has covenanted to love us through all the turnings and seasons of our lives.  
Let us pray: We come to you, O God, to affirm the many promises and covenants you have made to your people throughout history. Come to us in this season and remind us once again that you are always with us: in death and resurrection, in desert and in flood. Amen.

**\*Hymn** The Glory of These Forty Days *Erhalt Uns, Herr*

The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, by whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.  
Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law:  
and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.  
So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions' might;  
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.  
Then grant that we like them be true, consumed in fast and prayer with you;  
our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

**\*Prayer of Confession** Rev. Christian K. Choi  
God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you have set before us. In covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety and new life. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

**\*Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**\*Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

### Children's Sermon

**Response** Spirit of the Living God *Living God*  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

**First Scripture Reading** Genesis 9:8-17 Rev. Trajan I. McGill  
<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup> God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

**Solo** What Wondrous Love is This, O My Soul Charles Dupree  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul;  
that caused the Lord of bliss to lay aside his crown for my soul.  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM I will sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing.  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.

## Second Scripture Reading

Mark 1:9-15

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

## Sermon

Covenant of Colors

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth. Genesis 9:16*

## Solo

Ich habe genug

Johann Sebastian Bach

I ask no more, in peace I depart. Mine eyes have beheld Him and have seen Thy salvation, the Savior and hope of all Thy creation.

## The Church at Prayer

Soloist: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.  
I can hear the brush of angels' wings  
I see glory on each face;  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

## The Lord's Prayer

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.

## \*Introduction to the Offering

## \*Offertory Response

Doxology

**Prayer of Dedication** God of steadfast love and faithfulness,  
we are humbled to walk in your ways.  
Receive, we ask, these offerings,  
and use them for your own good purposes  
to speak words of empowerment  
to the church and all creation. Amen.

**\*Hymn** God of the Sparrow  
God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say awe? How does the creature say Praise?  
God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast,  
How does the creature cry Woe? How does the creature cry Save?  
God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave,  
How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks?  
God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal,  
How does the creature say Care? How does the creature say Life?  
God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook,  
How does the creature say Love? How does the creature say Peace?  
God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart,  
How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home?

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Voluntary** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Louis Vierne

*(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.*

The chancel flowers are given in loving memory and with deep gratitude for the life of  
Heather Anne Huitt by Robert, Julie, Brian, and Sarah Blythe.

**Worship Participants**

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff  
Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life  
Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry  
Julie Pittman McDonough and Jeanne Pittman (Lenten Candle Service)  
Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts  
Logan Campbell, Bass  
Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers  
Deb and Dave Coontz, Greeters  
Sara Eldridge and Gregg Humphries, Ushers  
Marilyn Rigney, Safety Team