



**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday

14 March 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Ministry Moment

Dancing with the Starz

Susan Day

Voluntary

Have Mercy on Me, Lord

Johann Sebastian Bach

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*** Call to Worship**

Bob Leffler and Mary Caroline Mitchell

Leader: People of the covenant:

People: **God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions.**

Leader: God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love:

People: **O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!**

Leader: God's steadfast love endures forever.

People: **Let us thank the Lord, who joined us in the dance of life.**

***Lenten Candle Service**

We journey together this season of Lent: a time to reflect, a time to forgive, a time to repent. As we extinguish the fourth Lenten candle, we remember the covenant of the cross and God's love for the world. Let us pray: Loving God, thank you for the gift of your grace in the paradox of the cross. Thank you for the Word becoming flesh in Christ Jesus and the journey of love he traveled to Calvary. Amen.

***Hymn**

I Danced in the Morning

Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain: Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.
They came with me and the dance went on. *Refrain*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. *Refrain*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. *Refrain*

They cut me down and I leapt up high.
I am the life that will never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. *Refrain*

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Christian K. Choi

Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints, grumbling about evils in the world even as we commit our own. Ready to protest when wronged, we also protest at the idea of our own wrongs being named aloud. Yet it is not condemnation you have sent us, but salvation. To gaze in faith upon you is to be lifted up from our guilt. Heal our sin, Lord, and free us from the ways to which we have become bound, that we may know life and be reconciled to one another and to you. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

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

***Declaration of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

Response Spirit of the Living God David Iverson

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 Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The 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." ⁶ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The 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. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So 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.

Music Largo e spiccato

Vivaldi-Bach

Second Scripture Reading

John 3:14-21

¹⁴ "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that God gave God's 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. ¹⁸ Those 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. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But 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."

Meditation

Why Have You Brought Us?

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

"The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?'"
Numbers 21:4-9

Solo

Sacrament

Johann Sebastian Bach

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said: Take eat, for this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, Drink ye all of it: for this is my blood of the new Testament, which is poured out for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit, this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it with you in my Father's kingdom.

O word of God, most holy, O wisdom from on high;
O Truth, unchanged, unchanging, O light of earth's dark sky,
We bless Thee for the radiance, that from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

Presentation of Our Gifts and Prayer of Dedication

*Offertory Response

Doxology

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Soloist: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Pastor: You are holy, O God of majesty...Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Pastor: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine... Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Words of Institution

Music at the Communion O Sacred Head, Now Wounded Johann Sebastian Bach

***Prayer after Communion** Merciful God, in Jesus Christ you have shown your love for the world in the paradox of the cross. Accept the offering of our lives and help us be for the world an emblem of your steadfast love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Hymn** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross *Hamburg*

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Charge and Benediction

***Voluntary** Fantasia in g-minor Johann Sebastian Bach

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Bill Donels by his family.

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

Bob Leffler and Mary Caroline Mitchell, Liturgists

Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts

Lyle VanDeventer, Bass Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers

Jeanne and Pete VanGieson, Greeters Julie Pittman McDonough and Bruce Strom, Ushers

Bill Deemer and Mary Ray, Communion Preparation Team Rich Canady, Safety Team