

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 22, 2020

A special welcome to those visiting with us today!

We are grateful for your presence with us and hope you find this time of worship to be meaningful.

***Please rise in body or spirit**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Slow Air #1

Herbert Howells/Robin Wells

WORDS OF WELCOME, CHURCH LIFE

Rev. John C. McKinnon

CHIME

INTROIT

Open Our Ears
Sanctuary Singers

W. P. Jones

***CALL TO WORSHIP** from Ephesians 1:3-4

Leader: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

Leader: For he chose us in him before the creation of the world

People: that we might be holy and blameless before God.

All: Let us worship God!

***HYMN 793**

O Christ, the Healer

ERHALT UNS, HERR

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison)**

This is the day that you have made, Lord. Remind us of the privileges we enjoy as your people: to come to you in these moments, to confess our sins, to receive forgiveness and give it, to pray and sing and listen, to renew our fainting spirits, to rest in all your promises. Open our eyes to see you, Lord. Open our ears to hear your Word. Visit us through your Holy Spirit and help us to celebrate our faith. Amen.

***CALL TO CONFESSION/PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: Not one of us is perfect.

People: No, not one.

Leader: Not one of us is full of grace.

People: No, not one.

Leader: Not one of us is spotless.

People: No, not one.

Leader: There is no one who knows God's fullness or rests completely in God's grace.

People: Therefore, let us approach God's throne together.

Leader: Let us confess our sin.

All: Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Find in us, we pray, the pockets of resistance and patches of coldness that keep us closed to your movement among us. Root them out and open us that we may be agents of your grace and channels of your love. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

793 O Christ, the Healer



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for
 2 From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies
 3 How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, how weak our
 4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -
 5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -



health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
 clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we
 knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those
 nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -
 mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -



be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
 heal - ing truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
 clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit considers not only the infirmities of individuals but also those of localities, societies, and nations. In the midst of such widespread need, worshipping communities are called to continue Christ's healing work in the world.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

As far as the East is from the West, so far has God removed our sin from us. As near as hands and feet and breath, so near does God stand with us. As close as the Spirit's tether can draw, so close does God bring us together. Friends, believe the Good News; in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
To this peace we are called as members of a single body.
*The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.***

***HYMN OF RESPONSE 581**

Gloria Patri

H. W. Greatorex

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

DISCOVERY TIME

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.

ANTHEM

Waitin' for the Mornin'

Pepper Choplin

Sanctuary Singers

Waitin' for the mornin' when the sun is gonna rise. When I'm prayin' on my knees, and my heart is gripped with agony, I'm waitin' for the mornin' when the sun is gonna rise. And though the shadows of pain and death try to shroud my soul with hopelessness, I'm waitin' for the morning' when the sun is gonna rise. When my joy and strength are almost gone, I'm gonna keep the faith and just hold on, 'cause I'm waitin' for the mornin' when the sun is gonna rise. And when the darkness tries to overcome, it won't last forever and will soon be done, so I'm waitin' for the mornin' when the sun is gonna rise.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-12 (pg. 102)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

O Rest in the Lord

Felix Mendelssohn

Jennifer Coffman, mezzo-soprano

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him, and he shall give thee thy heart's desires. Commit thy way unto him, and trust in him, and fret not thyself because of evildoers.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:13-41 (pg. 102)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Blind Spots

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

(pg. 35 in the front of the hymnal)

***HYMN 351**

CHARLESTOWN

All Who Love and Serve Your City

*1 All who love and serve your city,
all who bear its daily stress,
all who cry for peace and justice,
all who curse and all who bless:*

*2 In your day of wealth and plenty,
wasted work and wasted play,
call to mind the word of Jesus,
"You must work while it is day."*

*3 For all days are days of judgment,
and the Lord is waiting still,
drawing near a world that spurns him,
offering peace from Calvary's hill.*

*4 Risen Lord, shall yet the city
be the city of despair?
Come today, our judge, our glory.
Be its name "The Lord is there!"*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE

Amen

DANISH AMEN

Sanctuary Singers

OFFERING

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

None But the Lonely Heart

Peter Tschaikowsky/Dave Coleman

Today's offertory speaks to the lonely of heart like the blind man in today's scripture passage,
before the miracle of sight.

*PRESENTATION HYMN

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

***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.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

***HYMN 719**

Come, Labor On

ORA LABORA

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Fairest Lord Jesus (hymn 630)

Howard D. McKinney

719

Come, Labor On

Capo 1: (G) (C) (G) (Em) (C) (G) (C) (D) (G)
 A^b D^b A^b Fm D^b A^b D^b E^b A^b



1 Come, la - bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har - vest plain
 2 Come, la - bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;
 3 Come, la - bor on. Cast off all gloom - y doubt and faith - less fear!
 4 Come, la - bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west - ern sky,

(Em) (B7) (Em) (B) (Em) (C) (D)
 Fm C7 Fm C Fm D^b E^b



while all a - round us waves the gold - en grain? And to each
 to young and old the gos - pel glad - ness bear. Re - deem the
 No arm so weak but may do ser - vice here. Though fee - ble
 till the long shad - ows o'er our path - way lie, and a glad

(G) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)
 A^b Fm D^b A^b B^bm E^b7 A^b



ser - vant does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."
 time; its hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.
 a - gents, may we all ful - fill God's righ - teous will.
 sound comes with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Using Jesus' harvest imagery in John 4:35-38 and Matthew 9:37-38/Luke 10:2, this urgent text sounds a compelling call to Christian service. The words gain energy from the strong unison tune in the English cathedral style, whose name echoes the Benedictine motto "Prayer is work."