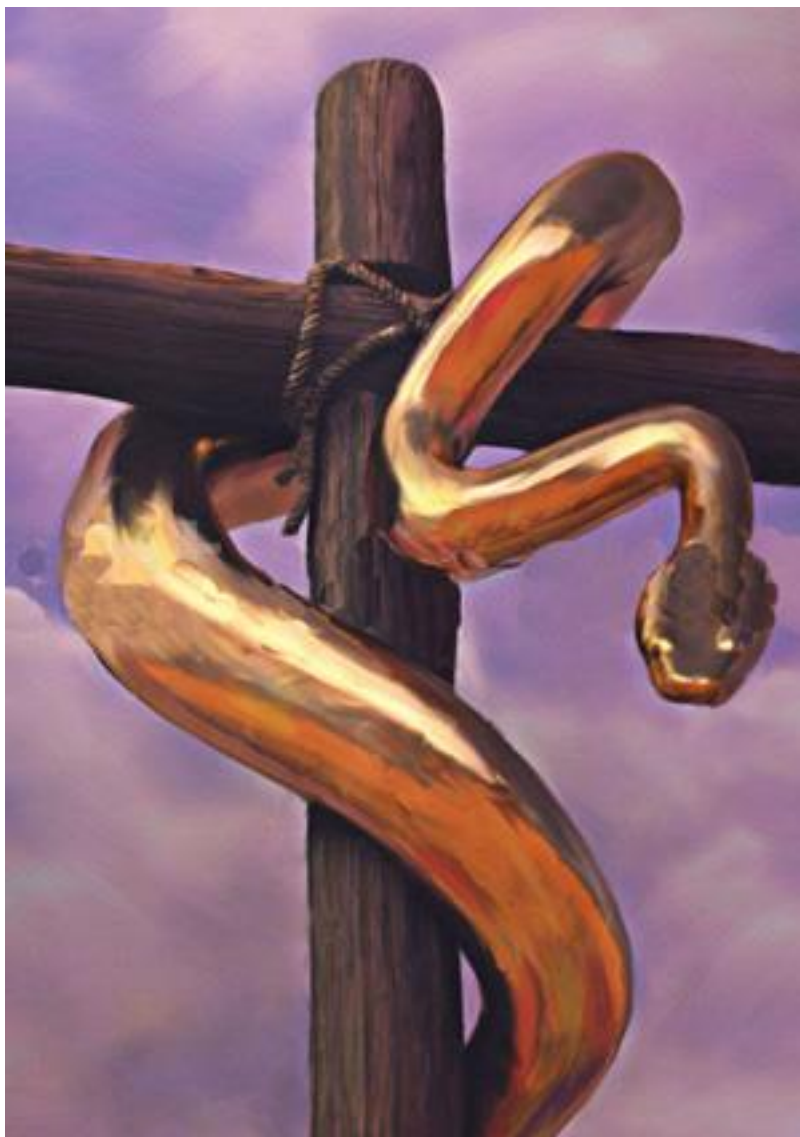


St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2024

10:30 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

"As Moses Raised the Serpent Up "

TUNE: O WALY WALY

As Moses raised the serpent up

So must God's Son be lifted up

That whosoever will believe

In him may live eternally.

"Be still and know that I am God."

Psalm 46:10

(Please use this time to prepare for worship in silence.)

WORDS OF WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

PASSING THE PEACE

"...I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Matthew 25:35b

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

(The people may greet each other in the spirit of Christ.)

CHORAL INTROIT

"Surely the Presence"

Wolfe

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 107, *The Message*)

Liturgist

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
for God's steadfast love endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those God redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**

Let them thank the Lord for God's steadfast love,
for God's wonderful works to humankind.

**And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of the Lord's deeds with songs of joy.**

OPENING PRAYER

THE LENTEN WREATH – LETTING GO OF SIN

We have been born into a world of sin. We hurt our neighbors, intentionally and unintentionally. We turn away from God. Sin is inescapable. But so is grace. God calls us to repent and Jesus speaks to us, "Your sins are forgiven." We can let go of our sins and turn back to God, trusting in God's mercy and forgiveness. (*Silence*)

As we extinguish this candle, we let go of our sins. We repent for all that we have done or left undone, and allow ourselves to be forgiven, so that we might respond by offering forgiveness to others and gratitude to God. (*A candle is extinguished.*)

Faithful God, forgive us for turning away from you and others. As we journey toward the cross, help us to repent of our sin and to forgive others in the same way you have forgiven us. Amen.

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

The faithfulness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. The mercies of God are new every morning. Beloved, confession of our sin before God is an act of trust in the goodness of God. In confession, we draw near to our maker in candor, knowing that nothing can be hidden from God. As we are honest with God and with one another about those places in our lives which stand in need of healing, we are opened to the mercies of God. So let us confess our sin, first in unison and then in silence:

We have tasted your goodness, O God, in Christ our Savior. In his name we ask for your forgiveness. We confess that we are greedy, while others go hungry. The daily bread you give is not enough, so we indulge our appetites. Our egos need feeding and, as the result, we crave recognition and ignore our neighbors. Show us once more the release for which we yearn and pray. May we find in Christ our heart's delight and our life's devotion. Amen.

Silent Confession

*KYRIE

**Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:
'I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,'
'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.'

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin."

Believe the promise of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

(Page 35, *Glory to God Hymnal*)

SINGING WITH THE CHILDREN: "Jesus Loves Me"

(Hymn 188)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE HEBREW TESTAMENT READING: Numbers 21:4-9 (Unison)

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. 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.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 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. 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.' 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.

The Word of the God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 2:1-10
These words are trustworthy and true.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM "Take Up Your Cross"

Giamanco

THE GOSPEL READING: John 3:14-21
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "The Mirror of Life"

THE RESPONSE

*HYMN 800 "Sometimes a Light Surprises" SALLEY GARDENS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (Unison) From *A Brief Statement of Faith of the PC(USA)*
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY "When in the Hour of Utmost Need" J.S. Bach

*DOXOLOGY/ Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (Hymn 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

THE SENDING

*HYMN 792 "There Is a Balm in Gilead" BALM IN GILEAD

*BENEDICTION

Go into the world sure of the goodness of God, remembering the promises God has kept.
We will be mindful of the ways that God has provided. We will keep our eyes on the cross of Jesus Christ and the new life offered to us all.
May the grace, mercy, and communion of our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and those you love, this day and forevermore. Amen.

*POSTLUDE "If You but Suffer God to Guide You" J.S. Bach

*Those who are able, please stand.

(You are welcome to be seated for the postlude or to leave the sanctuary directly after the benediction. Because our worship is primarily toward God and in response to God's grace in Jesus Christ, we refrain from applause. In our culture, applause is how we show appreciation for a performance. However, in worship, we are the "performers" for God. Thus, our singing, the music played, a solo or any other musical offering is an offering to God.)

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Anne Hébert, Pastor

Jerry Heiman, Liturgist

Al and Bonnie Garbrecht, Ushers

Pete and Marilyn Brager, Ron and Jeri Bushong, Greeters

Mac and Marilyn Whisner, Lenten Readers

Ruby and Skylar Anderson, Acolytes

Tim Quist, Organist

Michael Beery, Music Director