

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



March 3, 2024

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Christ calls us to live lives in harmony with our God and our neighbors. Even our best efforts fall short. Yet God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Trusting God's abundant mercy, let us confess our sin together.

God of righteousness, we confess that we have not kept your commandments. We bow down before idols, declaring our allegiance to other powers and principalities. We take your name in vain, using it to justify our own prejudices and opinions. We do not make adequate time to rest and remember your goodness, nor do we revel in the delight of family and friends. We look the other way in the face of violence and oppression, objectification and sexual assault, land grabs and unjust economic practices. Our dishonesty and greed get the better of us. Yet you gave us commandments not for condemnation, but so that we might live in justice and joy. Purify us by your righteousness and enfold us in your grace. Sanctify our intentions and actions, that our lives may reflect your Beloved Community. Amen.

Silent Confession

*KYRIE

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

Hear these words from the Apostle Paul, "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." The grace of Christ is sufficient for us. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! 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: Exodus 20:1-17 (Unison)

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven

and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: I Corinthians 1:18-25

These words are trustworthy and true.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Come Thou Fount"

K. Christopher

THE GOSPEL READING: John 2:13-22

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"The Promise Stands"

THE RESPONSE

*HYMN 50

"Deep in the Shadows of the Past"

SHEPHERDS' PIPES

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

(From *A Declaration of Faith (3.2-3)*)

When Abraham's descendants were slaves in Egypt, God heard their cries and prayers. God remembered God's promise and sent Moses to free them from bondage. We declare God's steadfast love and sovereign power. The Lord can be trusted to keep promises. The Lord still acts in the affairs of individuals and nations to set oppressed and persecuted people free.

Freed slaves became the people of God when they accepted the Lord's covenant. God charged them to respond to God's rescuing love by obeying the commandments. Their life together was to express the justice and compassion of their holy God. Since we, too, are the Lord's covenant people, we know we must be holy as the Lord is holy. We must keep God's commandments, not in order to earn or compel the Lord's favor, but to reflect the character of God and to be God's grateful and loving people. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"How Can I Keep from Singing"

Arr. Carter

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

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

O God, Creator of our wilderness world,
O God, Savior of the lost,
O God, Comforter of the sick and suffering,
we give you thanks for your everlasting might;
we glorify you for your covenant of mercy.
For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood.
We praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**
For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of your law.
We praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**
For forty years you fed your people with manna from heaven.
We praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**
You became truly human in Jesus our brother.
For forty days, with fasting and prayer,
he renounced the power of the devil.
We extol his life. Amen. **Amen.**
We lament his death. Amen. **Amen.**
We celebrate his resurrection. Amen. **Amen.**
Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit.
Make this food into manna for our journey,
the body and blood of your Son.
Save us, O God. **Save us, O God.**
Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance.
Save us, O God. **Save us, O God.**
Teach us your words of wisdom and justice.
Save us, O God. **Save us, O God.**
Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace.
Save us, O God. **Save us, O God.**
At the last, lead all your pilgrim people
through our deserts to your Easter garden.
To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving,
now and forever. Amen. **Amen.**

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Meal

(To receive communion when you come forward, please open your hands and a portion of bread will be given to you to partake. (If you prefer gluten free, please tell the server.) Then pick up a small cup from the tray and partake. As you return to your seat, there will be a basket in which you can place your cup. If you would like a server to come to you, please raise your hand.)

Communion Hymn 533

"In the Singing"

BREAD OF PEACE

The Prayer After Communion (Unison)

Thank you, gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days. As we travel together, help us to share your grace with others and draw us ever closer to you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 625

"O Lord My God"

HOW GREAT THOU ART

*BENEDICTION

May the God of all Goodness and Mercy
follow you on this Lenten journey.

**May the barren parts of our lives
be made fruitful through the grace of Jesus Christ
and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"Thy Word"

Arr. Hayes

*Those who are able, please stand.