

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“What Wondrous Love”

David N. Johnson

Call to Worship

Even now, return to God with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord Your God,

For God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

Come, Let us Worship the Lord.

Hymn 65

“Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah”

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;

feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.

Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;

be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.

Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,

you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.

We confess that we have strayed from you

and turned aside from your way.

We are misled by pride,

for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,

and great when we are small.

We have failed in love, neglected justice,

and ignored your truth.

Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.

Return us to paths of righteousness

through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Silent Confession

Kyrie 575

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

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9

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 when-ever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalter: Psalm 107 (Hymn 653)

1 Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in troubled days
with wondrous works to humankind that call for highest praise.
Let all who know God's saving love sing grateful songs always.

2 If you have ever wandered where no human help was near,
and in your trouble cried to God, who rescued you from fear,
then thank the God of steadfast love who dries your every tear.

3 If you have ever lived inside the prison of your gloom
and cried to God, who broke your bonds and raised you from your tomb,
then praise the One who sets you free, who makes dry places bloom.

4 If you drew near the gates of death, too sick to eat or dress,
and cried to God, who heard your voice and healed all your distress,
then sing with sounds of holy joy; God's wondrous works profess.

5 If you have felt your courage fail before a violent sea
and cried to God, who stilled the storm, and made the wild wind flee,
then in the congregation praise the One who heard your plea.

6 So praise the One whose love is great, whose kindness is well-known.
Consider well the healing hand and help you have been shown,
and tell the world what God has done. Praise God and God alone!

A Time with Children

Second Lesson: John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "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. 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. 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. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 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."

Sermon: "Snake Bit"

Dr. Eelman

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 223 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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?
- 4 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.

Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

***In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.***

A Minute for One Great Hour of Sharing

Karen Eelman

Offering
Offertory

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

arr. Dale Wood

Prayers of the People and 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.***

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 826 “Lift High the Cross”

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (Refrain)

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. (Refrain)

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally. (Refrain)

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory. (Refrain)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

arr. Carl Schalk

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Guest Preacher	Dr. Brent Eelman
Coordinator of Children And Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Liturgist	Barbara Decker
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck

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www.fpccs.org**

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Church Family Announcements

Thank you for joining us for our 10:00 Virtual Worship Service. We're happy you tuned in, hope that you will find our time together enriching, and look forward to the day we can worship together once again.

Have you had your shots?

A growing number of folks in our church family have received their vaccinations for covid-19. Bravo!

If you have received both shots and wish to return to the sanctuary for worship, we cordially invite you to contact our office and make a reservation. Because the corona virus continues to be contagious, we ask all who attend to wear masks, keep appropriate distances, and refrain from singing.

We look forward to the day when ALL of us can be back together. That day is coming. In the meantime, we will respect one another and do what is safe for all.

The Lenten Activity Bags, prepared by members of our Christian Education Committee, can be found in the hallway next to Jana Schillinger's office. They contain devotions, activity and reflection suggestions, and more to help us learn about Lent. There are versions available for both families with children and for those without. Please take a bag for your family.

CAMP LACKAWANNA INFORMATION

Summer Camp 2021 Registration is open! Head on over to camp.lackawanna.org to see what programs are being offered this summer and to register your children for camp! Family Camp registration is also open!

Our church provides scholarships for all young people who want to go. Check with Jana Schillinger for details.

DATES	CAMP	AGE GROUP
June 24-27	Family Camp	All Ages
June 28-30	Mini Camp	Ages 6-10
July 4-10	Wet n' Wild	Ages 7-16
July 11-17	Music, Arts and Drama	Ages 7-16
July 11-24	JH/SR 2-week	Completed grades 6-11
July 18-24	Adventure Camp	Completed grades 6-10
July 25-31	Night Owls	Completed grades 3-10
August 1-7	Camp Olympics	Ages 7-16

Camp Lackawanna is actively seeking staff for Summer Camp. In addition to Counselors, a Cook is also needed. Applications can be filled out at www.camplackawanna.org



Jazz Concert goes online, March 21

Join us for a third online concert, broadcast live from our sanctuary and offered as a gift to the community. Links will be on our website and Facebook page. You can also go to www.YouTube.com and search for **FPCCS Arts**.

Study with us during Lent

Rev. Carter is leading a Bible study at 10 a.m. on the Wednesday mornings of Lent, the next date being Lesson 5 on March 17. It will be held live on Zoom, with a small group meeting simultaneously in Room 206 (Session Room). Would you like to be physically present? Contact the church office (586-6306) to make a reservation. Masks and safety rules apply! The study is "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament.

Our building is bustling -- one person at a time! Feel free to read a book or check out a DVD from our church library, pray or play the piano in the sanctuary, or have a free cup of coffee with the pastor (who will keep six feet away). No groups, please, but Masked Individuals are welcome in limited numbers whenever the building is open. [Stir-Crazy People](#) are especially invited.

The Presbyterian Woman's Association will be unable to host our Annual Spring Luncheon with guests from Clarks Summit State Hospital. However they are so appreciative of getting new socks when they come here that a Spring Gift of BRAND NEW socks will be collected (for both men and women) and taken to the residents. A box has been placed in the Narthex for your donations. Please call Janet Dobson (570-563-1887) with questions.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit offers electronic Giving as a way to support the church on a regular or one-time basis. You can go to **fpccs.org** or **scan the QR code** (at right) anytime to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Why not give it a try today?

