

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 107)*

One: "O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;"

**All: "for God's steadfast love endures forever."**

One: "Let us thank the Lord for such steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind."

**All: "And let us tell of the Lord's deeds with songs of joy."**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Lift High the Cross" GtG 826

One: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

**All: till all the world adore his sacred name.**

One: Come, Christians,

**All: follow where our Savior trod,**

One: the Lamb victorious,

**All: Christ, the Son of God.**

One: All newborn servants of the Crucified

bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.

**All: O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,**

**your death has brought us life eternally.**

One: So shall our song of triumph ever be:

**All: praise to the Crucified for victory.**

One: Lift high the cross,

**All: the love of Christ proclaim**

One: till all the world

**All: adore his sacred name.**

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**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God,  
we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints.  
We grumble about the evils in our world,  
even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit.  
We fret about the scarcity of resources  
while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor.  
We protest the problems of our world,  
but we do not actively work to address them.  
Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace.  
Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways  
that we may know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**\*SILENT CONFESSION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**One:** 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.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**\*THE PEACE**

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you.  
**All:** **And also with you.**  
*(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)*

**THE WORD**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Numbers 21:4-9  
John 3:14-21

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** "Snake on a Stick" by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
male and female, of every race and people,**

to live as one community.  
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth,  
exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
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.

(from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastor: Merciful God...  
People: ...hear our prayer.

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Contemporary*)

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.

#### **OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**For your power to save and the grace to want to, we give you thanks,  
O God. Accept the gift of our hearts and the offering of our lives, that your  
will may be done and your love be abundantly shared. In Christ's name we  
pray. Amen.**

### SENDING

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" GtG 221

One: O sacred head,  
**All: now wounded,**  
One: with grief and shame weighed down;  
**All: now scornfully surrounded  
with thorns,**  
One: thine only crown;  
O sacred head, what glory,  
**All: what bliss till now was thine!**  
One: Yet, though despised and gory,  
**All: I joy to call thee mine.**

One: What thou, my Lord, hast suffered  
was all for sinners' gain:  
**All: mine, mine was the transgression,**  
One: but thine the deadly pain.  
**All: Lo, here I fall, my Savior!**  
One: 'Tis I deserve thy place;  
**All: look on me with thy favor,  
and grant to me thy grace.**

One: What language shall I borrow  
to thank thee, dearest friend,  
**All: for this thy dying sorrow,  
thy pity without end?**  
One: O make me thine forever;  
**All: and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
out-live my love to thee.**

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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor: ...And let the gathered people of God say...  
People: ...Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

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