



ST. CHARLES AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Online Worship

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021 | FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY | DAY OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

GATHERING

*Good Morning and welcome to worship at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church on this fourth Sunday after Epiphany.
This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Hazlaris

CALL TO WORSHIP "Let us worship God."

VOLUNTARY

"Prelude in G"
Steven B. Blackmon, organ

Linley

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Emily Fleshman

We are conscious of your presence among us today, gracious God, as we draw near to you and to one another in and through your Holy Spirit. As throughout these one hundred years of our church's history, again this year you have blessed us and we are grateful indeed. Through wars, hurricanes, and economic crises, through national upheaval, days of reckoning, and times of pestilence and death, you have held us in the palm of your hand, and we are thankful. In life and in death, we belong to you, in and through the strong name of Jesus, Amen.

HYMN

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

LOBE DEN HERREN

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.

CALL TO CONFESSION

"Reverence of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," but arrogance is the soul of folly. Let us come before the presence of the God who reigns from the cross, the God whose judgment is love, and submit ourselves without guile unto him, confessing our sin.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN (*based on Psalm 111*)

Great are your works, O Lord. Majestic and glorious are all your ways. The wise delight in your mighty acts, and ponder the glory of your grace. You have provided all that exists with all that is required for life. You have established your eternal covenant with us, though we are only creatures. Yet we have taken for granted all you are and all you have done for us, squandered the beauty and sustaining bounty of your creation, and followed in ways that lead to destruction for ourselves and your world. Forgive us, we pray. And restore unto us that delight in you and your works that is the hallmark of your saints. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Quicken within us, O Lord, the assurance that you have forgiven our sins. Quicken also within us the assurance that we may rise and walk in the newness of life, that our sins and faults and failings have been blotted out. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

THE WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joel 2:21-27 (KJV)

Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things.

Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

Meg Gammage

THE GOSPEL LESSON

The Gospel According to St. Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

SERMON

"The Year the Locusts Ate"

Michael Jenkins

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Apostles' Creed"

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA PATRI

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.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

OFFERTORY

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Forrest

Kameron Lopreore, tenor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of all the Circling Years, our confidence dries up like springs in a dry land. Our hopes shrivel in hard times like parched leaves deprived of rain. Grief, like dust, blows against us, cutting our skin, blinding our eyes, making it hard to see ahead of us. Try as we might, we cannot bring the life-giving rains, not by our own efforts.

Wishful thinking does not amount to hope. And the losses we have suffered, leaving holes in our hearts and undercutting our will, are too real, too costly, to be healed with hollow words, however well-meaning.

We have lived through so much, but so much more must still be borne. And we do not know how wide is this wilderness we face, nor what perils await us.

If there is any lesson we have learned, however, from those who have gone before, it is that you are faithful, that you can be trusted in the bad times as in the good; that our confidence is safe with you in uncertain times, when all else seems to fail.

We entrust ourselves, our loves, our world to you now. Knowing so little, anxious about so much, limping into the future as we are, whatever the future may hold: we believe you hold us in the hollow of your hand. Whatever redemption there may be for this time, it lies with you. Amen.

**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.**

SENDING

HYMN

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ST. ANNE

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Irish Blessing"
SCAPC Virtual Chancel Choir

Blackmon

VOLUNTARY

"Siciliana"
Steven B. Blackmon, organ

Walond