



ST. CHARLES AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Online Worship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

GATHERING

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

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steven B. Blackmon

CALL TO WORSHIP "Let us worship God."

VOLUNTARY

"Allegro" from Sonata in G Minor
Steven B. Blackmon, organ

Handel

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Katie Brendler

God beyond every human mind, we adore you. We find ourselves only in as much as we lose ourselves in you the unfathomable. You nourish our minds with truth, purify our imaginations with beauty, open our hearts with love. We find our freedom in surrendering ourselves to you. As we adore you, you give us your own selflessness, thus delivering us from that self-centeredness that undercuts your purpose for us. Amen.

(based on a prayer by Teilhard de Chardin)

HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above; thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small. In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light. Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

CALL TO CONFESSION

"O Thou Supreme! Most secret and most present, most beautiful and strong! What shall I say, my God, my Life, my Joy? What shall any of us say when we speak to Thee?" (St. Augustine of Hippo)

Let us speak, confessing our sin to Almighty God.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN (from Palm 51)

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness, according to the multitude of thy mercies do away with mine offenses. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. Make within me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. (Amen.)

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Psalm 51)

"The sacrifice God desires is a troubled spirit; and a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. God has heard us, and has looked into our hearts." In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

"As the hart desires the water-brooks, so longs my soul after thee, O God." Give unto us to drink from the spring that never runs dry. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

THE EPISTLE LESSON

1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

Andie Stagg

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 9:9-15

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. Then they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" He said to them, "Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written about him."

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him.

SERMON

"When the Dead-end is the Way Through"

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

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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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (from Philippians 1:3-11)

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

**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

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

HYFRYDOL

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, never-more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Irish Blessing"
SCAPC Virtual Chancel Choir

Blackmon

VOLUNTARY

"Fugue in G Minor" (Great)
Steven B. Blackmon, organ

J. S. Bach