

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

February 28, 2021 | Online Worship

ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GATHERING

*Good Morning and welcome to worship at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church on this second Sunday of Lent.
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

"Reverie"
Steven B. Blackmon, organ

Rawthorne

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION (from Psalm 22:23-31)

God, merciful and gracious, you have called us to this moment by your acts of love, through your loving-kindness, in your enduring patience. We bow before you in awe and in reverence, glorifying your name, adoring your presence, thankful that you have not despised the afflicted, that you have not hidden your face to sinners. Our praise rises to you in the great congregation, and we promise in your presence, therefore, to live as your people. Amen.

HYMN

"The God of Abraham Praise"

LEONI

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

CALL TO CONFESSION

In reverence we pray, in humility we confess, unto you, O merciful God:

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

God we find ourselves here so often, confessing our sins before you. Sometimes we confess in formal words handed down for centuries, asking that you have mercy upon us. Sometimes we bring specific failings to you, sins we would not want to speak out-loud, but whisper in our hearts to you alone. Search us, we pray, with your grace. For this we know: whatever you touch is forgiven, and healed. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"Come unto me, and I will give you rest," says our Lord Jesus. He will give rest to our restless hearts; he will bring wholeness to his broken people. For he forgives us and seeks to restore us to our full humanity. Amen.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michael Jenkins

We seek to hear. Open our ears. We seek to comprehend. Open our minds. We seek to obey. Set our feet upon the path you illuminate. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 17:1-7

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

Allison Thomas

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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.

OFFERTORY

"Amazing Grace"
Frank Convit, baritone

Courtney

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of the larger view, help us to lift our eyes to your hills, toward your horizon, to remember again the brightness of your keen hope. Life has worn callouses on our spirits, deadening the joys that once enlivened our touch. The darkness of the year, the grey days of winter, the seemingly endless round of disheartening news have conspired to steal the sweetness of this your world. But we do know the sweetness is still there.

How many ways can we spell our short-sightedness? Cashing out the gains of the moment while losing out on those investments that would, we know, give the greatest satisfaction; winning battles of no consequence, while watching those grand victories slip away: we long to make better choices.

How can we regain the vocation to which you called us, to steward and tend all of this glorious life and world? While there is still time, give us the courage to act.

How can we love with your large heart? Implant within us that spirit that never forgets in the rash moment that aggression never begets other than aggression, as love unfailingly inspires more love.

We offer ourselves to you this day, as living sacrifices to your mercy and love, in gratitude and in praise. 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

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

DEO GRACIAS

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, beyond all thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.

For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew, for us, the tempter overthrew.

For us by wickedness betrayed, for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death; for us gave up his dying breath.

For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent the Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All glory to our Lord and God, for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore forever and forever more.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Irish Blessing"
SCAPC Virtual Chancel Choir

Blackmon

VOLUNTARY

"Andante" from *Concerto in G-Minor*
Steven B. Blackmon, organ

Handel

Videography and photos by Steven B. Blackmon