

# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 7, 2021 | Online Worship

ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## GATHERING

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

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Jinkins

CALL TO WORSHIP "Let us worship God."

VOLUNTARY

"When in Our Hour of Deepest Need"  
Steven B. Blackmon, organ

J. S. Bach

PRAYER OF ADORATION (from Psalm 19)

Laurie Young

"The heavens declare your glory, O God, and the skies proclaim the work of your hands. Day after day they pour forth their speech. Night after night they display their knowledge. Your glory is known wherever creation utters its praises. Your teachings are perfect, O Lord. Your law makes wise the simple. Your precepts give joy to our hearts. Your commandments are radiant, giving light to our eyes."

"May the words of our mouths, and the meditation of our hearts, be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer." Amen.

HYMN

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

LAUDES DOMINI

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find: may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound: may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this the-eternal song through all the ages long: may Jesus Christ be praised!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Hear your children as we pray, O God, in humility and without guile. Amen.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

We are so like children, O Lord. We pretend to ourselves that you declare something a sin arbitrarily, to test us perhaps, or just to keep us from having fun. We transgress like toddlers testing their boundaries, stealing a cookie before dinner, or tugging on a sibling's curls. But we know that far more is at stake with those things you declare sin. They destroy, do these sins. They break hearts, and lives. They beget violence under the false guise of justice. They seduce us into believing that God's way is foolish, that God's way is weak. We pray too often that you would save us from the consequences of our sins, but we know we need saving from our love of sin. Forgive us, we often pray. But also transform us, so that we may seek life and not death. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"Come unto me, and I will give you rest," says our Lord Jesus. God will give rest to our restless hearts; God will bring healing to his children. God forgives us and seeks to restore us to our full humanity in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Your word, O God, is like honey on our tongues. Grant us to taste its sweetness and know its nourishment. Amen.

### THE EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

### MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

Sarah Edgecombe

### THE GOSPEL LESSON

The Gospel According to St. John 2:23-25

When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.

### SERMON

"Crosses and Losses"

Michael Jinkins

### 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

"Deep River"

arr. Hayes

Kameron Loppreore, tenor

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We bring our hearts to you, O Lord, in need of repair.

Our hopes are so often disappointed; Our intentions so often misunderstood; Our affections so often misplaced. We are like closed books to one another, and even to ourselves. Give us the compassion and the courage to read our hearts and to hear the hearts of others when read to us.

We bring our minds to you, O God, in need too of repair. We find it so hard to discern the truth of the matter. Sometimes it feels like someone has put distorted and clouded spectacles over our eyes. Whatever light we look at gets twisted on the way. We are willing to believe that the distortions in these lenses are as much our work as the work of others, but how do we repair them?

We know that pain is inevitable, but help us learn not to love our misery.

We know that suffering is a fact of life for others, and not just us.

When we are tempted to sink into the bottomless lake of self-absorption, remind us that the best remedy is to help someone else find their way to shore.

We know that we cannot repair the whole world, but with your help there's much we can repair.

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

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

CRUSADER'S HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down,  
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring.  
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host.  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Irish Blessing"  
SCAPC Virtual Chancel Choir

Blackmon

### VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on *Wondrous Love*

Blackmon

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*Videography and photos by Steven B. Blackmon*