

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 14, 2021 | Online Worship

ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GATHERING

*Good Morning and welcome to worship at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church on this Fourth 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 Jenkins

CALL TO WORSHIP "Let us worship God."

VOLUNTARY

"Sonata in E-flat" from *Il Siciliano*
Patti Adams, flute; Steven B. Blackmon, organ

J. S. Bach

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE (from Psalm 107)

Miriam Hollar

We give thanks unto you, O Lord, for you are good. Your steadfast love endures forever. When we wandered in the wilderness longing for home, we found our rest in you. When we sat in darkness and gloom, prisoners of misery, we found redemption in you. When we lay upon our sick beds wishing only to be well, we found healing in you. In all our distress, in every danger we have faced, we have cried unto you, O Lord, and you have heard us. Amen.

HYMN

"To God Be the Glory"

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory; great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory: great things he has done!*

Great things he has taught us; great things he has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (*Refrain*)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Not only in moments of danger and distress do we call upon you, O God. We call upon you today aware of the many ways in which we have failed to live up to your vision for us. Hear us as we pray.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

In life and in death, we belong to you, O God. And, yet, we behave as though we do not. We resent the time it takes to be kind to others and to put their needs first, mistakenly believing that our time is our own. We hesitate to give generously to the needs of others, believing that our resources are our own. We even pretend that this world, its bounty, our friends, families, and fellow creatures are at our disposal. And too often we dispose of them with impunity. All the while, you remind us that the earth is yours and all that dwells therein, that we are yours, a people set aside for your purposes and not our own. Restore us to our calling as stewards of the mysteries of God. Forgive us, we pray, for the sake of your mercy and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Scripture tells us that God longed to restore us to the fullness of our humanity. In and through Christ Jesus that is what God has done. And through the Holy Spirit, which is the eternal life and love of God, even now he seeks to make us mindful of the Union which Christ has accomplished once and forever in our flesh. In Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed, reconciled and restored to God's original intention for us; let us rise up into that life for which we were created and to which we have been restored. Amen.

THE WORD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation
Introduction and Declarations of Intent
Prayer of Thanksgiving Over the Water
Baptism
Welcome

Peter Anderson Wilson, III
Peter A. Wilson, Sr.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In your Word is life, gracious God, and love, and goodness, and hope, and power. Open our ears that we may hear. Amen.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

Youth members: Nicholas White, Arden Weiser,
Savannah Weiser, Jane Andrews, and Will Scofield (videographer)

THE GOSPEL LESSON

The Gospel According to St. John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

SERMON

"The Children of Wrath"

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.

OFFERTORY

"Gloria in excelsis" from *Mass in C-Minor*
The SCAPC Chancel Choir & Orchestra

Mozart

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We have heard it said, O God, that in our humanity we stand like church steeples between this world and the heavens, but perhaps it is more true to say that we dwell between two visions of the world, the one that sees the world as a force for evil, forever tempting us to selfishness and wrath, the other that believes the world, though broken, is God's good and beloved creation.

An evil world inspires evil acts, and should be shunned. Many saints have thought so. But somehow this way of living feels misguided.

Oh, there are spirits in this world that do appeal to our worst instincts. They incite hatred, and greed, lust, and pride. But we are not immaterial beings. We are flesh and blood, and we are creatures of this earth. To turn our backs on this world is to forget that God loves the world so much he sacrificed himself to restore and repair it.

What God loves, we cannot despise without despising God. Teach us to live in the world, with hearts crafted by the Spirit of God, filled to overflowing with the Life and Love of God, so that fear cannot find a foothold in us, and hatred has nothing on which to feed, and we may live as Jesus lives among us, fully alive, fully in this world, fully 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

"My Song Is Love Unknown"

LOVE UNKNOWN

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

He came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow; the world that was his own would not its Savior know.
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes we strew his way, and his sweet praises sing, resounding all the day hosannas to our King.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.

Unheeding, we will have our dear Lord made away, a murderer to save, the prince of life to slay.
Yet steadfast he to suffering goes, that he his foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine: never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Irish Blessing"
SCAPC Virtual Chancel Choir

Blackmon

VOLUNTARY

"Sonata in E-flat" from *III. Allegro*
Patti Adams, flute; Steven B. Blackmon, organ

J. S. Bach

Videography and photos by Steven B. Blackmon



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
WAS ADMINISTERED TO
PETER ANDERSON WILSON, III,
SON OF ROSALIND AND PETER WILSON,
ON MARCH 7, 2021.