

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 21, 2021 | Online Worship

ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GATHERING

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

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Jinkins

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

VOLUNTARY

"Cry No More"

Forrest

Haley Whitney, soprano; Steven B. Blackmon, piano

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE (from Psalm 107)

Bria Rault

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

"I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

TOULON

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art, my only trust and Savior of my heart,
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake; I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace, reigning omnipotent in every place:
so come, O King, and our whole being sway; shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

Thou art the life, by which alone we live, and all our substance and our strength receive;
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power, and give us strength in every trying hour.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness; no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.
O grant to us the grace we find in thee, that we may dwell in perfect unity.

Our hope is in no other save in thee; our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure, that in thy strength we evermore endure.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God desires that we are honest with ourselves, with others and with him. God calls us to open our hearts in confession so that we might also be open to forgiveness. For without owning our forgiveness it is impossible to live fully and lovingly with others. Let us confess before Almighty God and one another.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN (from Psalm 51:1-10)

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your steadfast love. According to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, and you above all, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight. You are blameless and justified in your judgment of me...."

O God, you desire truth in the inward being. You teach me not to lie to myself. Therefore I pray that I may understand, even unto the depths of my secret heart, what it is you want from me. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean. Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Hide your face from my sins, I pray, and blot out my iniquities. Create within me a clean heart, O God, and put within me a new and right spirit." Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Psalm 51:11-12)

We are told and the saying is true, that God will not remove his presence from us. God honors the humble and hears the penitent. God restores unto us the joys of our salvation and sustains a willing spirit. Amen.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, illumine us in the hearing of your Word, that truth will abide within us and will guide our lives. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

Youth

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Hebrews 5:5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

The Gospel According to St. John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

"Kyrie" from *Mass in C-Minor*

Mozart

Haley Whitney, soprano: SCAPC Chancel Choir and Orchestra

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, we find ourselves so entangled in the vines and undergrowth of this world, that it is hard to imagine that our arms and legs were ever meant to freely move. Old and destructive urges and habits make it hard to be the people we want to be. Unworthy loyalties make it difficult to embrace the higher aspirations of our hearts. Fears that we will not be admired or respected, as noble as these seem, can trap us into behaviors that we know are base and ignoble at best.

We are so tempted to believe that we will never get better at this sacred business of being human. That is a temptation indeed. And it is fed by a cynicism disguised as humility.

Still something keeps bringing us back here, to pray, to hope, even to long that you are not done with us yet.

Your world cries out for men and women who are not cowed into submission by its lower devices. Your world cries out for a people free enough to help rescue the world from itself. Indeed your world awaits our willingness to submit to you and to your purposes for this world.

We believe that you have searched and found us, that you have met us where you found us, but that you will not leave us where you found us. We believe you are not finished with us yet. Help our unbelief. 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

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

PRECIOUS LORD

Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near; when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Irish Blessing"
SCAPC Virtual Chancel Choir

Blackmon

VOLUNTARY

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

Handel

Videography and photos by Steven B. Blackmon