

ST CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SEASON OF

EASTER

APRIL 26, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Voluntary

Steven B. Blackmon

Opening

Good morning and welcome to worship at
St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church on this Third Day of Easter
"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Call to Worship from Psalm 116

Hallie Boh

"I love the Lord, for he has heard my voice; he heard me cry for mercy.
Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live."

Prayer of the Day

"We do love you, O Lord. We call upon you today. In our separation from those we love,
in a time of illness and anxiety, we pray to you, asking that you
will fill our hearts with that perfect love that casts out all fear."

Hymn: "This Is My Father's World"

TERRA BEATA

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. O, let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems off so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world. The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

Call to Confession from Psalm 116

The Psalmist expresses the deepest human concerns.
Let us hear his words: "The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came upon me. I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.
Then I called upon the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, save me!'"

Confession of Sin (unison)

**We trust you, O God. Help us in our distrust. We believe in you.
Help us wherein we doubt your power. We call upon you to look deep into our hearts.
Open them to your grace. That we may know your saving power
in the midst of our anxious lives. Amen. (Silent reflection)**

Assurance of Pardon from Psalm 116

"The Lord is gracious and righteous. Our God is full of compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearted. When we call upon the Lord
in our great need, he saves us."

A Moment of Prayerful Reflection

"On my pilgrim journey toward eternity, I come before you, the eternal One.
Let me not try to deaden or destroy the desire for you that disturbs my heart....
make me wise today to see all things within the dimension of eternity
and make me brave to face all changes in my life that come from this vision;
through the grace of Christ my Savior. Amen."
(John Baillie, "A Diary of Private Prayer," revised by Susanna Wright)

Prayer for Illumination

Pierce Young

O God of light, illuminate our darkness, that we may understand your Word
and know your Presence. Amen.

Message for the Children

Zach Christiansen

Gospel Lesson

St. Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

“Would I recognize Jesus if I Saw Him?”

Affirmation of Faith (responsive)

from *The Heidelberg Confession*

WHAT IS YOUR ONLY COMFORT IN LIFE AND IN DEATH?

**That I belong, body and soul, in life and in death, not to myself,
but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

Anthem

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”
Kameron Lopreore, tenor

Forrest

Invitation to Discipleship

Sarah Chancellor-Watson

If you do not yet have a church home, we hope you will consider becoming a member of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church where the life of faith is lived each day in the midst of a loving community, whether together in the flesh or virtually.

We hope that you will continue to support (in prayer, virtual presence and financially) our church's many ministries which continue during this time of pandemic. Perhaps more than ever, your support is needed.

[PRAYER REQUESTS: CLICK HERE](#)

[OFFERING PAYMENTS: CLICK HERE](#)

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Lord, listen to your children pray. Listen, we pray, to requests for healing and hope laced withour deep gratitude and praise for your loving care. You have been there for us in years past. You have supported us when days were long and pain was great. Today we find ourselves threatened by an enemy invisible, a danger that respects no boundaries, and we find ourselves struggling to contend. You know our fears, you know our burdens.

We hardly know for what to pray, except for healing of the sick, support of those most vulnerable to the disease and to financial hardships. We pray especially today for the children, and the aged, for those who already were lonely and subject to anxiety when the pandemic began and who suffer even more now. We pray for those we love most, so many of whom we wish we could wrap our arms around to give comfort in this time. We pray for those we know least, that you will remember them all in your gracious mercy and loving care.

We commit this world of woe to you. We entrust the future to you. We come before you together now, praying as your Son, our Lord Jesus, taught us to pray.

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.

Hymn: "All Creatures of Our God and King"

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia! O brother sun with golden beam O sister moon with silver gleam,
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind and clouds and rain, you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.
Alleluia! Alleluia! O sister water, flowing clear, make music for your Lord to hear.
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shadows of the night.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds such blessings on your way,
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O, sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Charge and Blessing