

Worshiping God at
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Second Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2023



Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teddie McConnell

Prelude

Seung-mee Oh

Opening Prayer

Pastor Teddie

God of great love, you alone can take away the sting of sin and remove the venom of death. Show us a sign of your saving power in Jesus Christ, so that we may believe in him and receive the gift of eternal life; through Christ, our healer and redeemer. **Amen.**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Lynne Abbey-Lee

L: I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come?

P: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

L: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

P: Let us worship God.

Service parts in bold: Everyone speaks in unison.
Parts with an asterisk: * Please stand in body or in spirit.

* Hymn #137

O He Came Down

He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may love; he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may light; he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may peace; he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may joy; he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

* Passing of the Peace

Pastor Teddie

Let us share the peace of God with each other, as we greet one another in the name of Christ.

Call to Confession

Lynne

Our God does not slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper and your shade at your right hand. Let us confess to our ever vigilant and ever faithful God.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lynne

Gracious God, we are selfish and arrogant. We have overlooked human dignity; we ignore the needs of minorities, migrants and immigrants. We hear the cries of the land, women, children, and young people, but we have not done enough to respond to the grace that we have received. These actions have caused some people to suffer and experience oppression. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

Please take time now for your own silent prayers. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor Teddie

"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."

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Thanks be to God. Amen

* Gloria Patri

Anthem

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
(by Joseph M. Martin)

Chancel Choir

Call for the Offering

Pastor Teddie

All that we have and all that we are belongs to God. Every time we perceive our abundance and give out of it, we engage in an act of resistance against the forces of scarcity, cynicism, and hopelessness about the possibilities for the world around us. Let us resist, give, and participate in God's transformation of us and our world.

Offering/ Offertory

Seung-mee

* Doxology

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Pastor Teddie

We return these gifts to you and relinquish our control over them, O God, that you may use them beyond us, beyond this place, and beyond self-interest that your love may abound in the flourishing of every living thing you have entrusted to us. Amen.

Sharing of Joys & Concerns/ Prayers of the People/ Lord's Prayer

Greg Lee

Musical Reflection

Seung-mee

As these words are read and proclaimed, may we be compelled in these next moments amidst all the imperfections and misunderstandings that may come to be yet compelled into your will, your way, and your wisdom. May your grace and truth abound in our hearing and our doing your Word. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson

John 3:1-17

Lynne

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "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.

¹⁷ "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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ 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. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*** Affirmation of Faith (unison) (from the Belhar Confession) Pastor Teddie**

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe that:

- **Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another**
- **that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ**
- **that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain**
- **that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;**
- **that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this church.**

Therefore, we reject any doctrine which denies that a refusal earnestly to pursue this visible unity as a priceless gift is sin;

Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

*** Hymn #12**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unfasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wafing, thou rulest in might: thy justice like mountains high soaring above; thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small. In all life thou livest, the true life of all. We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, then wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light. Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight. All praise we would render; O help us to see `tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)

Pastor Teddie

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Alleluia! **Amen.**

Sung Benediction

All

May the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you forever;
grant you peace, perfect peace,
courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see God's face,
full of grace forever;
may the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you forever.

Fellowship Time

Come! Join us in the Fellowship Room for refreshments, snacks, and conversation following the worship service.