

*"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship."*

*~ Thomas Aquinas*

*Happy Valentine's Day,  
my friend!*

*Sunday Worship  
February 14, 2021  
Draw near to God  
for God is waiting for you.*

*PRELUDE*

*CALL TO WORSHIP*

You are with us, God of sunrises:

**you awaken us with each bright new day, overflowing with promise.**

You are with us, Inviting God:

**calling us to respond to all the chances to share the spirit of grace and hope.**

You are with us, Glory of God:

**gathering us into the presence of your peace, listening to the deep sighs of our hearts.**

*OPENING PRAYER*

**God of Heaven and Earth, God of the sunrise and the sunset, God of the highest mountain and the deepest valley, hear our prayers as we come before your throne of glory. Declare your message to us and grant us the courage to listen. May our listening turn to action. May our actions touch the hearts of those who need to hear your voice. We put our trust in you knowing that it is well placed in your gentle and caring hands. Amen.**

*HYMN #620 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

1. Praise my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress; praise him still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness.

3. Father-like, he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows; in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows.

4. Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

*CALL TO CONFESSION*

*We can become so burned out by our hectic days that we lose sight of the One who gives us life. We can become so impatient waiting for God to astound us with wonders, when we have the simple pleasure of each day. In these quiet moments, away from all those things which distract us, let us bring our brokenness to the One who listens to our hearts, and heals our souls.*

*PRAYER OF BROKENNESS AND CONFESSION*

**Compassionate God, we confess the times when we have closed ourselves to your love. We cling to our fear, our guilt, our self-hatred, rather than let ourselves be warmed and healed by your love. We close our hearts, refusing to be channels of your love to others. We are frozen like winter ice and snow. Forgive us, and give us courage to trust you and let your love flow through us to others. Amen.**

*WORDS OF BLESSING AND ASSURANCE*

*The promise is true--God's Light has come into the world, and into our lives. We are graced with glimpses of*

*God's glory, even as we are filled with mercy and forgiveness. Remember this good news and say with me: Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.*

*FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON* 1 John 4:7-19

<sup>7</sup> My dear friends, we must love each other. Love comes from God, and when we love each other, it shows that we have been given new life. We are now God's children, and we know him. <sup>8</sup> God is love, and anyone who doesn't love others has never known him. <sup>9</sup> God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life. <sup>10</sup> Real love isn't our love for God, but his love for us. God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we must love each other.

<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is truly in our hearts.

<sup>13</sup> God has given us his Spirit. That is how we know that we are one with him, just as he is one with us. <sup>14</sup> God sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. We saw his Son and are now telling others about him. <sup>15</sup> God stays one with everyone who openly says that Jesus is the Son of God. That's how we stay one with God <sup>16</sup> and are sure that God loves us.

God is love. If we keep on loving others, we will stay one in our hearts with God, and he will stay one with us. <sup>17</sup> If we truly love others and live as Christ did in this world, we won't be worried about the day of judgment. <sup>18</sup> A real love for others will chase those worries away. The thought of being punished is what makes us afraid. It shows that we have not really learned to love.

<sup>19</sup> We love because God loved us first. <sup>20</sup> But if we say we love God and don't love each other, we are liars. We cannot see God. So how can we love God, if we don't love the people we can see? <sup>21</sup> The commandment that God has given us is: "Love God and love each other!"

*TIME WITH THE CHILDREN*

*HYMN #693* Though I May Speak

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

3. Come Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

*SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON* Mark 2:1-12

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup> So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup> Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup> Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup> At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk?' <sup>10</sup> But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup> "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." <sup>12</sup> And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

*SERMON*

*RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION*

**Lord Jesus, all that we have is yours, and all that we are is yours. In offering these tokens of our lives, may all that we do serve you to the glory of God. Amen.**

*JOYS AND CONCERNS*

*INVITATION TO THE TABLE*

*HYMN #515 I Come with Joy*

**I Come with Joy**

**515**

Capo 3: (D) (G) (A) (D) (Bm)  
 F B<sup>b</sup> C F Dm

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

(Asus) (Am) (G) (F#m) (D)  
 Csus Cm B<sup>b</sup> Am F

free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

(Em) (D/F#) (G) (A) (Am7) (D)  
 Cm F/A B<sup>b</sup> C Cm7 F

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text affirms that Christian unity is not achievement but gift, one renewed each time we gather for the Lord's Supper. Each of us enters as an "I" and leaves as part of "we." The unadorned language of this text is well matched to the simple shape note tune that sets it here.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1993  
 MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977  
 Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company  
 Music Arr. © 1977 Hope Publishing Company

DOVE OF PEACE  
 8.6.8.6.6

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*SHARING THE ELEMENTS* (Please hold up your elements of first the bread and the cup with the pastor says the Words of Institution are spoken. We will partake of each element together)

*UNISON PRAYER*

**Holy God, we give you thanks that you have claimed us as your own and nourished us in this meal as members of Christ's body. By the work of your Spirit within us, give us the grace to glorify you as one living body in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*HYMN #306* Blest Be the Tie that Binds

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes; our mutual burdens bear. And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

*BENEDICTION*

*POSTLUDE*

**Sunday February 14, 2021 – ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY** - Join us today for Sunday school class for all ages at 11:30am on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>. For one half hour our children will be hearing stories, singing songs, engaging in activities and games about God and God's teachings.

**THURSDAY EVENING STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP:** Join us this Thursday evening February 18, 2021 at 7pm on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782. The group is engaged in a study of the New Testament book Revelation. With so much happening in our world, there are those who believe the end is near and draw this conclusion from their understanding of this somewhat mysterious book. Together we explore the actual message of the book and what it means for us today. Pastor Su is leading the study.

**CONFIRMATION:** Will **not** be meeting this week but are invited to join the Ash Wednesday service at 7pm on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

**CONFIRMATION CLASS MISSION PROJECT NEEDS YOUR HELP** - Our confirmation class is sponsoring a mission project that will provide some of the supplies homeless youth through the Synergy Project need on an ongoing basis. They are asking for your help by donating any of the following items: hand warmers, soap, towel, washcloth, snacks (homemade cookies, brownies, chips or granola bars), hand wipes, reusable water bottle, deodorant, portable phone charger (purchase at 5 and below), adult size underwear (men's and women's), canned food with pop tops. In addition, if anyone has a sleeping bag or tent they are no longer using, these also can be donated. Please bring all items to the church by February 21.



**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Wednesday February 17. We will join The Anchor Presbyterian Church for this annual worship service using Zoom at 7:00 PM: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782. An Ash Wednesday service kit is available for pick up at the church. This kit includes ashes, a Lenten daily devotional as well as other materials that will also be used during the Good Friday service. For those who are not able to attend the Ash Wednesday service but would like a Lenten devotional, these will also be available for pick up or by mail. Please contact Susan Flanagan in the church office if you need either your kit delivered to you or a devotional mailed to you.

**MISSION GATHERING:** Sunday February 21 (corrected date) – Cards for military. We will gather together at 3:00 to make cards expressing our appreciation for the service of our military personnel working through “Hugs for Soldiers.” The cards are to be upbeat and positive. Express thanks for their service, dedication, sacrifice, and/or time away from home. Sample Salutations: Dear Hero, Dear Brave One, Dear Service Member, Dear Warrior.

Be creative. Draw pictures and talk about you. Keep cards and letters to a size of 8 1/2" x 11" or under for ease in shipping and distribution. You can use colorful construction paper within the paper size limit.

**DO NOT USE GLITTER OR CONFETTI** or any other product that could come loose when we open the box or envelope in which you are mailing us your cards.

(Cards will be available at Church for those that would prefer to use a pre made card, office hours are Mon - Thurs. 9am-2 or call Susan at 215-794-8575 and she will package cards for you and leave at the back door.)

**WEEKLY LENTEN COMMUNION SERVICES:** Beginning Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> we will be gathering for a brief meditation, prayer, and share communion at 8:30am on Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

**Calendar:** Feb. 15- offices closed for President’s Day, 7:30pm Worship Task Force mtg.,  
Feb. 16- 1pm Christian Education Mtg.,  
Feb. 18- 10:30am Deacons Mtg.

**In our thoughts and prayers:** The Conner/Lang Family, Diane Dauer, Jim and Judy Ferguson, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Nancy Yerkes, Raymond Tinari, Dick Wright