



Sunday Worship - Lent 4
March 14, 2021
Draw near to God
for God is waiting for you.

PRELUDE (If you are using a Lenten Cross made of candles, light three of them now)

CALL TO WORSHIP

*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son
that whoever believes in him should not perish
but have eternal life.*

**Let those who know they are redeemed celebrate it!
Those who have been reclaimed from deep trouble!**

*Though we were as good as dead,
God made us alive with the grace of Christ
through whom we are rescued and healed.*

**O give thanks to God for such unswerving love,
for such wonderful deeds for the children of earth.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Everlasting God,
in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself,
so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it;
that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**

HYMN #438 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears
forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling; naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

LENTEN CROSS CONFSSIONAL LITANY – The Sign (If you have created a “cross” out of six candles,
extinguish a fourth one before using the following liturgy)

Leader: *We have added to the cross today the mocking sign that hung above the head of our Lord, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." This sign forever symbolizes our spiritual deadness. In our disobedience and death we mock a Kingdom we do not want---while through His death the Ruler of that Kingdom offers us life.*

People: **Lord Jesus, deliver us from our spiritual deadness. We do not know what it means to live the life of Your Kingdom, to walk in step with Your Spirit. Help us say "no" to our desire for earthly kingdoms. Help us say "yes" to the cross.**

Leader: *The sign was meant to mock a "king" whose life ended, absurdly, on a cross. Instead, it signifies our inability---or unwillingness---to believe in a Messiah who suffers, because we want a Messiah who conquers.*

People: **Lord Jesus, in our desire for power and prestige we miss out on Your coming Kingdom. We think being seated with You means having positions of power. Help us say "no" to our passion for earthly success. Help us say "yes" to the cross.**

Leader: *With this sign we passed judgment upon God's nature as revealed in Christ. But the sign actually reveals our true nature as children of wrath.*

People: **Lord Jesus, Your cross exposes all the ways we are not like You. We confess the difference between Your life and ours. Help us say "no" to our self-confident boastings. Help say "yes" to the cross.**

Leader: *Let us pray together...*

All: **Almighty God, Your cross reveals our true nature. We look at Your Son, and we look at ourselves, and we confess the great difference. Deliver us from our selves; we admit our helplessness apart from Your grace. Thank You for Your kindness, for the riches of Your grace to us in Christ. Create us anew in Christ Jesus for the way of life You have prepared for us. Make us like Your Son, we pray. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON John 3:14-21 (NIV)

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN #216 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land; a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day.

2. Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me: and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess, the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

3. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place: I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss; my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 2:1-10

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

SERMON

“Wanted Dead or Alive”

Ryon Herin

RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us.

**Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves,
our wills and our works, a continual thank-offering to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 #634 “To God Be The Glory”

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath 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 hath done.

2. Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to ev’ry believer the promise of God.

The vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. [Refrain]

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath 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]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sunday March 14th – 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 March 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. This week our seminary intern Ryon Herin will guide us through "Listening and Boundaries"; Through the Holy Spirit and Scripture, we will journey together in exploring how to use each of our unique gifts in caring for each other and our wider community.

WEEKLY LENTEN COMMUNION SERVICES: Wednesday March 17th, we will be gathering for a brief meditation, prayer, and share communion at 8:30am on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

PRAYER WALL: Having a Prayer Wall at the church allows not only church members to request and pray for each other, but also brings in the community who might not know how or where to pray but appreciate the prayers of others. All are invited to write out their prayer on a strip of fabric that is found in a plastic bin next to the "wall" and tie it to the chicken wire. All are also invited to stop by, read the prayers and offer them up to the Lord.

Playground Update by Nathan Holton

As many of you know, I am a Life Scout in Troop 71, and my Eagle project is to bring the Forest Grove Church playground back. If you would like to donate to my project, please send your donation to Forest Grove Presbyterian Church and write *Nathan's Eagle Project* in the memo line of your check. This will make sure I will be able to use your donation. I'll keep you updated. Thanks – Nathan

Calendar: March 16 - 7PM Property Meeting - Zoom
March 17 - *Happy St. Patrick's Day*
8:30AM Lenten Communion Service
6:00 PM Confirmation Class
March 18 - 7 PM Thursday evening Study and Fellowship

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