



Sunday Worship - Lent 3
March 7, 2021
Draw near to God
for God is waiting for you.

PRELUDE (If you are using Lenten Candles, light all but two of them now)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our Lenten journey continues. Often the road has been stony and hard. Sometimes we have stumbled and even fallen.

But God has been our friend and our guide. We have no cause to be alarmed. God is faithful to us, even when we are faithless.

Today we rejoice in God's faithful love, and together ask for strength and signs of hope and life.

And again we are drawn together to celebrate the life that is ours in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God!

OPENING PRAYER

God of all seasons, help us to refocus our attention on you and the ways in which you build up your beloved community. Overturn our lives and reorder them so that we may be in sync with you. In Jesus we pray. Amen.

HYMN #394 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1. Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone, chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one; holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.

2. To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts today; come, with your wonted lovingkindness; hear your people as we pray, and your fullest benediction shed within its walls always.

3. Here bestow on all your servants what they ask of you to gain; what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain; and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

4. Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son, laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one; one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

CONFESSION (Extinguish a third Lenten candle)

The symbol we lay before the cross today is the soldier's whip, an instrument of punishment and coercion. Of the elements before the cross, the whip is the only one used by Christ as well. With a whip Jesus purified the temple; with a whip we destroyed the temple of His body.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we confess our frequent misuse of power. You granted us dominion over creation, but we have too often used this gift for domination. Help us say "no" to immoral coercion of others. Help us say "yes" to the cross.

The whip was used to punish Jesus for failing to fit preconceived notions of holiness. Still today, we sometimes threaten those on the outside to behave according to the expectations of those on the inside.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we confess our blindness to your Holiness. We are so busy protecting the God of our own construction that we try to destroy the God you reveal. Help us say "no" to squeezing you into our mold. Help us say "yes" to the cross.

We use the whip to remind people – with pain and scars – of their trespasses. Jesus cleansed the temple so that we might meet freely in prayer with a God who forgives.

Lord, Jesus Christ, when we are tempted constantly to remind our neighbors of their sin and wound them by rehearsing their past, help us say “no” to keeping a record of wrongs. Help us say “yes” to the cross.

Let us pray together...

Almighty God, you know our sin. You know how we misuse our power. Our lives are filled with guilt. Wash us and make us clean. Help us to lay down our instruments of destruction. Teach us to be a reflection of your love and grace. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Mold us into the image of Jesus, in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN #418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. Come home, come home! You who are weary come home.

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you to come home.

2. O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are weary come home. Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you to come home.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 2:13-22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

SERMON Make Way for Change

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

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 #625 How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: *Refrain*

3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin: *Refrain*

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *Refrain*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sunday March 7th – 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 11, 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 “Prayer”; 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 10rd, we will be gathering for a brief meditation, prayer, and share communion at 8:30am on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

PRAYER WALL: Comfort for Cheryl on the death of her mother and Jane on the death of her husband; healing for Dani, Dee and Elijah; peace, compromise and reconciliation: these are the prayers that have been placed on our church and community Prayer Wall. As a follower of Jesus Christ, we are called to pray and to specifically pray for others. A prayer wall is not necessary to pray, however, a prayer wall is beneficial to pray. It will draw us together into the community of saints, who are all at the prayer wall for the same reason. You will come to see the needs of others, and others will see your needs, which is a bonding experience for all. To love those around you is a Christian ideal, and partnering with others in prayer is a great way to show that love.

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 playground back. Well, I have an update for you. The project has been approved by BSA and the forms have been signed. So I’m ready to get the supplies and start building this playground. I hope to have the project completed by late March to early April.

Of course, the supplies do cost money. 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. And any size donation would be helpful. I’ll keep you updated. Thanks – Nathan

PASTOR SU ON STUDY LEAVE MARCH 8-14

Pastor Su will be on Study leave during the week of the 8th. She is taking this time to prepare for Holy Week. If you have any pastoral needs, please contact Susan Flanagan in the church office.

Calendar: March 10 – 8:30am Lenten Communion Service
6:00 PM Confirmation Class
March 4 - 7 PM Thursday evening Study and Fellowship

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