

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

PRELUDE

My Song Is Love Unknown, arr. M. Hassell¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 121

Leader: From where will our help come?

People: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Who is our keeper?

People: The Lord is our keeper, by day and by night.

Leader: How long will God protect us?

People: God will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

***HYMN 618**

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High, Deo Gracias²

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead.

We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change.

Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith (*continue with silent confession*). Amen.

SONG OF CONFESSION HYMN 551

*Lord, Have Mercy, Land of Rest*³

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, God is for us and not against us!

People: For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Leader: Believe the good news,

People: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Please stand, turn to the back wall and wave to our online worshippers, offering them the peace of Christ and then greet each other.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Amy Poland

After the message, children may follow the teacher to room 11 for Spiritual Adventures.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 12:12-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 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 apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." 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?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 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." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these

things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "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. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "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.

SERMON

Born Again

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 286**

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God, Trentham*⁴

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 649

*Amazing Grace (verse 2), Amazing Grace*⁵

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY

*God So Loved the World, J. Stainer*⁶

***DEDICATION HYMN 694**

*Great God of Every Blessing (verse 1), Aurelia*⁷

Great God of every blessing, of faithful loving care, you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share. How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start; sincerely and completely I offer you my heart."

SEALING THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you,

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Eternal God, holy and mighty, ... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and every place who forever sing to the glory of your name.

People: Sanctus Hymn 565 *Holy, Holy, Holy*⁸

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, ... Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

People: Memorial Acclamation Hymn 566 *Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen*⁹

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...

We pray the prayer taught to us by our Lord Jesus Christ,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF BREAD AND POURING OF CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Cantabile, R. Haan¹⁰

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light, Houston¹¹

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Toccata in e minor, J. Pachelbel*¹²

Leaders Today:

Pastor: Rev. Scott Anderson

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

The Chancel Choir

Ushers/Greeters: Paul & Linda Bishop, Eileen Ahearn (Deacon)

Communion Servers: Ed Cothroll, Jean Loup, Thatcher Root, Bill Tanke



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WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Julie Madden Memorial

-Julie's memorial will be at Westminster on Saturday, March 11. Visitation is at 10:00am and the service is at 11:00am.

-Cookies/Bars Needed: If you are able to make cookies/bars or bring fruit/cheese for the memorial, please sign up in the Narthex (by coat racks). You can drop off items by 9:30am Saturday or feel free to drop them off before at church during normal office hours. Please make sure to label them.

Local Art Display

We have such talented members! Judith Bradshaw Rouse will have her artwork displayed at UWHC on Highland Ave from March 2 to 29. If you happen to stop by the hospital, please check out her art display at G/1 next to the H elevator. If you miss the display at UWHC, the same pieces will be at Lakeview Library in June.

Family Lent Resources

Families and children of all ages: The Family Ministries table in the Narthex has Lenten Devotions, Lent calendars, and One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks for the taking! Come check it out!

Taizé Worship

Our mid-week Taizé Worship continues. This service, which begins at 6:30 p.m., and will alternate locations, as follows:

- At Covenant Presbyterian: March 15, 29
- At Westminster Presbyterian: March 8, 22

Please consider joining us. The service will not be livestreamed or recorded for later.

The WPC Friday Fish Fry - Last Call to Sign Up!

Join us for a Friday night Fish Fry on March 10th, 5:30 PM at the Thirsty Goat (3040 Cahill Main, Fitchburg) - just a short drive away!

In addition to the fish fry (panko crusted walleye, beer battered Atlantic cod or breaded lake perch), their menu includes baby back ribs (1/2 & full racks), and smokehouse items: brisket, chicken, or pulled pork. Salads will also be available. We hope that you can attend for a great dining and fellowship experience. The signup sheet is on the coat rack table in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact Gary Stephens at stephensge1@gmail.com.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people face challenges to obtain food, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. One Great Hour of Sharing is a special collection throughout Lent to help improve the lives of people around the world in challenging situations. Mathew 25 encourages us to see Christ in those who are hungry, thirsty, and oppressed. This special collection is our opportunity to reach out and assist those in need. Please consider making a contribution anytime now through Easter. Checks can be made to Westminster with "OGHS" in the memo or through our online portal listed in the announcements.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Care List: Shirley Dieter, Sally & Vern Forsberg, Ann Friedley, Jack Hamann, Gloria Hanson

Members & Friends: Paul Quin, Peg Zimmer, Patrick Mullin, Nancy Smart, Ruth Hein, the family of Julie Madden, Karen Stephens