



Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY 2

4th Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

FULL TO THE BRIM: Prodigal Grace

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Reconciling God, you bring all of us to yourself
through the power of your Son, Jesus Christ.*

*Our mistakes may be large or small;
they may be intentional or less so,
but no matter our iniquity*

your love always runs to meet us on the road.

Refresh us with the breath of your Holy Spirit.

Renew us with the love of Christ Jesus.

*Refocus us so that we might bring our whole being
into worship. Amen.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE When I Survey the Wondrous Cross David Marvel, Organist

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God's reach is endless.

God's mercy is unstoppable.

God's grace is lavish.

God's love is constant.

God's wisdom is vast.

God's hope is stubborn.

God's presence is here—

with us, among us, moving through us.

Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

We are in God's house.

Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

Hymnal, No. 442

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Let us pray. . .

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name.

It sounds like ours.

And we know his story.

It sounds like ours.

For who among us hasn't burned a bridge?

Who among us hasn't forgotten that we belong to one another?

Who among us has not ached for home?

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name.

Forgive us God. We want to come home.

(Time of silent reflection)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The feast is for you. This grace is extravagant.

Thanks be to God, amen.

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Mother, Brother, Holy Partner

Hymnal, No. 3, verse 4

Mother, Brother, holy Partner;

Father, Spirit, Only Son:

We would praise your name forever,
one-in-three and three-in-one.

We would share your life, your passion,
share your word of world made new,
ever singing, ever praising,
one with all, and one with you.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Nick Lindley

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 940

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Page No. 850

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Prodigal Grace

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling

Hymnal, p. 418

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us.

We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on and throws a feast when we are found.

We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us when we get lost.

We believe in a God of prodigal grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other.

We remember that humans are not meant to go through life alone; so we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live like we are family, and to lead with grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

We believe that this is our call. Let it be so. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Today in this house for all sinners and saints
we come to you, God,
to pray for your wisdom and your grace.

In Christ we are a new creation!

Open our hearts when they are small,
when we hear the sound of music and dancing
but we choose to stay outside.
Crack open our stingy outlook,
and bring us into the rhythms of your abundance.

In Christ we are a new creation!

Open our hands when they are clenched too tightly;
when we sing the songs of nationalism
more than we do the hymns of your praise.
May we reach out to those who have left all they know,
afraid of where they came from
and unsure of where they are going.

In Christ we are a new creation!

Open our eyes when we would rather keep them closed;
when we look away from our neighbor
instead of looking into ways we can be of help.
Sharpen our vision so that we may see them from far away
and search for clothes, shoes, and food to greet them.

In Christ we are a new creation!

Open our minds when they are shut,
blocked by the certainty of our own opinion
rather than exposed to your radical love and grace.
Help us to be agents of your reconciling peace,
regarding no one from our human point of view
but with the mind of Christ.

In Christ we are a new creation!

With the strength, power, and joy of the triune God,
we say: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

THE OFFERING

We offer our silver.

We offer our gold.

We offer our lives,

the young and the old.

OFFERTORY

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

*DOXOLOGY

For the Beauty of the Earth Hymnal, No. 14, verse 1

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love with from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

*DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG When God Restored Our Common Life Hymnal, No. 74

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

As you leave this place,
may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.
May you laugh, and may it be contagious.
May you overflow with love for those around you.
May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.
And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,
may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,
and may it change your life.

In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—
go in peace, full to the brim. **Amen.**

*POSTLUDE Great is Thy Faithfulness

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for April 3: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

We are truly grateful for you joining us today, in person or via live streaming. This is new for us all, and we thank you for your patience with this new way. We will be adapting and changing as we work together to worship with devotion and safety protocols. If you have comments or suggestions, please let the pastor or a worship committee member know.

The Food & Shelter item of the month for **March is peanut butter**. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

442 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,
4 Just as I am, thy love un-known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me
con - flict, man - ya doubt, fight - ings and fears with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise
ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

come to thee,
in, with - out,
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!
thine a - lone,

SPANISH

1 *Tal como soy de pecador,
sin más confianza que tu amor;
a tu llamada vengo a ti,
¡Cordero de Dios, heme aquí!*

KOREAN

1 큰-죄에 빠-진 날 위해
주-보-혈 흘려주시고
또-나를 오-라하시니-
주께로 거-저 갑니다

When illness limited her involvement in a bustling household, the author wrote this hymn that helped her both to achieve and to express a renewed sense of worth grounded in Christ's self-giving. Its simple, direct, and deeply felt language has made it a source of comfort to many.

CONFESSION

418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

When God Restored Our Common Life

(Psalm 126)

1 When God re - stored our com - mon life, our
2 We went forth weep - ing, sow - ing seeds in
3 Great lib - er - at - ing God, we pray for

hope, our lib - er - ty, at first it seemed a
hard, un - yield - ing soil; with laugh - ing hearts we
all who are op - pressed. May those who long for

pass - ing dream, a wak - ing fan - ta - sy; a
car - ry home the fruit of all our toil. We
what is right with jus - tice now be blest. We

This paraphrase brings Psalm 126 to life in two ways: by turning the "they" of the final verses of the psalm to "we," and by adding a prayer for all who still wait for release from oppression. The shape note tune provides just the right balance of gratitude and urgency.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1981

MUSIC: U.S.A. folk melody, Lewis's *Beauties of Harmony*, 1828; harm. Erik Routley, 1976

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RESIGNATION

CMD

(alternate harmonization, 803)

(alternate tune: NOEL)

shock of joy swept o - ver us, for
 praise the One who gave the growth, with
 pray for those who mourn this day, and

we had wept so long; the seeds we wa - tered
 voic - es full and strong. The seeds we wa - tered
 all who suf - fer wrong; may seeds they wa - ter

once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
 once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
 now with tears spring up in - to a song.