



"Neighbors" by Steve Prince | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
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Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

1st Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Never Met a Stranger

When we talk about God, we say
she's never met a stranger.
She makes friends at the airport.
She waves to babies in the check-out line.

When we talk about God, we say
she'll leave the porch light on.
She'll have warm bread in the oven.
She'll have all the time in the world.

When we talk about God, we say
she'll look you in the eye.
She'll love you as you are.
She'll call you by your name.

When we talk about God,
we never have to talk about
which side of the road she might walk down.
Wherever you are,
that's where she'll be.

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

PRELUDE Contemplation Camille Saint-Saëns

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God meets us in the night—
**before the sun rises,
before the wound heals,
before there are answers,
before there is closure.**

God meets us in the light—
**where joy is effervescent,
where laughter is contagious,
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
where people gather around tables.**

God meets us in between—
**at the edge of the water,
at the beginning of the wilderness,
at the start of something new,
on the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,
**then surely God meets us everywhere—
at the water's edge, at the start of something new,
after the baptism, and before the call.**

We are not alone. God is all around.
Let us worship the God of everything.

*SONG OF PRAISE O Love How Deep, How Broad How High Hymnal, No. 618

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.

(Time of silent reflection)

Family of faith,
When we set limits on love,
God loves extravagantly.
When we forget that we are neighbors,
God claims us as God's own.
When we judge, hold back, or harm,
God surrounds us with grace.

There is nothing we can do or leave undone
that could separate us from the love of God.

This is the good news of the gospel. 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Samuel McCann

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 10:8b-13

Page No. 921

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord,

"My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,

no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

ANTHEM

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:25-37

Page No. 842

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

In Between Stranger and Neighbor

Tracy L. Evans

SONG OF FAITH

I Saw a Stranger

Bulletin p. 7

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Church, if God asked you, "Who is your neighbor?"
what would you say?

**We would say,
every child, every person,
every weeping willow,
and every morning lark.
Every freckled face,
every wrinkled pair of hands,
every tail-wagging dog,
and every crisp ripe apple.
We would say,
we are connected—
to one another, to all of God's creation.
There are no strangers in God's house.
We are all family here.**

I think God would delight in that answer. For it is said,
"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your strength,

with all your mind,

and you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response:... Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

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

THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

For the Beauty of the Earth

Hymnal, No. 14

For the beauty of the earth,

For the glory of the skies,

For the love which from our birth

over and around us lies:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Hymnal, No. 166

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Lenten Meditation

Jonathan Battishill

*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 March 2: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a).

The Food & Shelter items of the month for February are soup and crackers. **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.

