

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,
but to save the world through him.

John 3:17



Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

March 5th, 2023

2nd Sunday of Lent

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – March 5th, 2022

How can we pray for you? Let us know at prayerrequests@gpcfww.org or in the Zoom/Facebook Chat!

We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in ***BOLD*** with us from your homes!
10:15 – Zoom Meeting Starts ~ ~ ~ 10:20 – Facebook Live Stream Starts

10:30 – Live Prelude Starts *Here, O My Lord - Langran*

Welcome

Pastor Kevin

Call to Worship

Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

We are learning to follow Jesus.

When God says, “Go!” without telling us the destination,

Show us, Christ, how to go forward in faith.

When re-birth is the impossible way forward,

Christ, be our midwife as we accept God’s call to be reborn.

When we find ourselves in the in-between of where we’ve been and where we’re going,

Christ, meet us on the way and bless us in the going.

Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts, August 2022.

Opening Hymn #49 “The God of Abraham Praise”

Call to Confession

In the season of Lent we are invited to consider how we live as followers of Christ – to look at our decisions and our actions straight on, to hold them up to the example of Christ, and to make amends. In this time of silence, and in our prayer together, let us look at our lives.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life: Hear our prayer. There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us From one another and from You. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, For fear of admitting our part in the separation, For fear of being rejected

when we reach out. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, To a wholeness with each other and with You. Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Time of Silent Prayer and Confession.

Call and Confession written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good.' Used with permission. <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession>.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that world might be saved through him. Believe the Good News.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Song of Assurance #581 Gloria Patri

Passing the Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The Peace and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

Let us take a moment, wave to each other on Zoom, say a quick "Hello!" in person, send a message of peace to each other on Facebook, and invite the peace of Christ into our worship.

Children's Message

Time of Music and Meditation

Prayer for Illumination —

Let us pray. God of signs and wonders, we come to your word again and again, seeking understanding and the new life it offers. By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds so that we may believe this testimony and

have eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Savior, we pray.
Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Hebrew Reading — Genesis 12:1-4a

p17

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

²“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Choir Anthem

Scripture Reading:

Gospel Reading — *John 3:1-17*

p1649

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

⁴“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot

tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things?”

¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶ For 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. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Sermon

Blowing in the Wind

A Moment of Silent Reflection

Hymn of Response #450 “Be Thou My Vision”

Invitation to the Table

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
let those who have no money come and eat.
**God will satisfy our souls with a rich feast,
and we will bless the Lord as long as we live.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
in this dry and weary land.

You set a table for us in the wilderness
and provide for all our needs.
Even when we complain against you,
you feed us with bread from heaven.
When we quarrel and question your grace,
you give us water from a stone.
How can we keep silent?
Even dry bones in the valley of death
stand to sing your praise:

Sung response #556

We give you thanks and praise for Jesus,
our way in the wilderness,
our companion in the desert.
He knows our hunger and thirst;
he gives us the bread of life to eat
and living water to drink.
He leads us beside still water
and prepares this table for us,
even in the presence of our enemies.
The cup of blessing overflows.

Sung response #557

Now pour out your Holy Spirit
upon this bread, this cup, these people.
By the power of your Spirit
breathe life into our dust
and hope into our bones.
Make us one flesh and one blood,
one in the body of Christ.
Let us live to sing your praise
and show your love to all,
until our wilderness wandering is over,
and we feast with you forever
in the land that you have promised.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, O God, now and always.
Join us in your grace as we pray what we have been taught:

**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.**

Sung response #558

*The Communion Service comes from Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.)*

Call to Offering –

All that we have is a gift from God. In faith and gratitude, we return now a portion of what we have so abundantly received, as grateful heirs of the promises of God.

Offertory *In Remembrance of Him - Taylor*

Doxology #606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Prayer of Dedication –

Let us pray. Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for our own good purposes. In Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn #215 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Classical Theme - Marcello*

All unattributed pieces come from Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion, ed. by Kimberly Bracken Long, Louisville, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Welcome Table

A Pop-Up Free Restaurant Experience: North Christian Church invites all neighbors and friends to a free meal and a chance to experience a positive community building event. The free restaurant will be in operation on Monday, March 6th from 5:30-6:45 PM. This is hopefully the first of an ongoing outreach. Be there to see it kick off. You can find additional information on North Christian Church's Facebook page.

Just Neighbor's Hot-Dinner Drop Off: It's our turn again to provide meals for our local Just Neighbor friends. Our three evenings are March 12-14. We have a plan and some initial volunteers but would love additional support for each of those evenings. Currently, Cindy Bowers is tapped for March 12 (Mexican food), Cathy & Todd March 13 (hot sandwiches) & Betsy on March 14 (Pi-Day pizza). Please contact any of those leaders or Betsy – 260.740.7168 – if you can assist. Drop off for the meals is at 5:00 PM at 2925 East State.

Tin Caps Baseball: Join Grace for a baseball game behind home plate in a reserved concourse suite. The tickets are \$29 and the game starts at 1:05 PM. Please contact Tammy for more information or to reserve your spot.

We are selling SCRIP Today: A portion of each card comes back to us and our ministries. To purchase Scrip or for more information see John Current.

Lenten Study – Wednesdays – 5:30 PM: *Each Wednesday in March. This is a book study. Sign up in narthex for books. Light meals provided.

Our Lenten Gifts: This year Grace Mission Team is offering several opportunities to help our neighbors and friends during the Lenten Season.

Lenten Coin Folders and Fish Offering Coin Boxes are available on the table in the Narthex. Your donations will be used for Just Neighbors. Just Neighbors IHN assists children and adults with emergency shelter, meals, skill development, employment

assistance and information about community resources. Our gifts help these neighbors in our community move from crisis to self-sufficiency and independence.

Fishes and Loaves Collection. We are collecting cans of tuna, salmon and crackers to help the United Faith Food Bank. Monetary donations are welcome also.

One Great Hour of Sharing Collection on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to:

- relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program
- promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People
- assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Birthdays

Peggy Mahoney — 3.5

Judy Bellis — 3.8

Becky Barnett — 3.9

Anniversaries

March 12, 1966

Robert & Carol Fahrenbach

PRAYER REQUESTS

Celebration for the birth of Karen Doehrman's grandson Sullivan

Prayers for Mary McNeely, Peggy's sister, having a cancer procedure on Monday.

Prayers for Sharon Allen and her broken foot.

Prayers for Dianna Eller recovering from surgery.

Prayers for Vivian Louise, for continuing recovery.

Prayers for Terry Frick, Stacy Monnier's father, with a recent diagnosis of cancer.

For Dustin Brown and his team looking for a marrow donor.

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

To connect to our worship services on Zoom, follow these instructions to watch or listen. You can connect at 10:15 for fellowship; the service starts at 10:30.

Option 1: Automatically Join the Meeting

Follow the link in the email sent every week. This is by far the easiest way to connect to the live video.

Option 2: Manually Join the Meeting

You can download Zoom from <https://www.zoom.us>.

After you have installed the program/app, click on “Join” and enter this information:

Meeting ID: 9712063468 *Password:* 030414

Option 3: Call in to Listen (Audio Only)

On Sunday Morning, you can call to listen to the service. After you call, it will ask you to enter the Meeting ID and Password Below:

Phone Number: (301) 715-8592 *Meeting ID:* 9712063468 *Password:* 030414

49 The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;

the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph - et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed,
 Es - tab - lished is your law, and change - less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

TEXT: Moses Maimonides, 12th cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dayan, 1404; stanzas 1, 3, trans. Thomas Olivers, c.1770, alt.; LEONI stanzas 2, 4, trans. Max Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett, 1884, 1910, alt. 6.6.8.4.D
 MUSIC: Jewish melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770

Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

450

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F[#]) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F[#]m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F[#]) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

SERVICE MUSIC

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise *him, all creatures
here below; praise *him above, ye heavenly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

**Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDRETH
LM

What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."