

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY

HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY

MARCH 7, 2021

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Palsm 19)

Leader: Weary and overwhelmed, we gather.

People: God's holy word revives us.

Leader: Simple and confused, we yield.

People: God's word gives us wisdom.

Leader: Blind and uncomprehending, we await.

People: God's word enlightens our eyes.

Leader: More precious than gold is God's word.

ALL: Sweeter than honey are God's commands.

HYMN OF PRAISE - NCH #12 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

1. I sing the mighty pow'r of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.
2. I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,
Who formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.
3. There's not a plant or flow'r below, but makes Thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care;
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (sins)

O God, Your weakness is mightier than human strength, Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. We rejoice that You are with us today. Open our hearts and discipline our will. Teach us to follow Your perfect ways that we may stay within the beam of Your holy light. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, comfort and redeem us with Your holy gospel and hear us as we pray 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever Amen

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT: OT Exodus 20:1-17 - Sue Milici

20:1 Then God spoke all these words:

20:2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

20:3 you shall have no other gods before me.

20:4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

20:5 You 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 fourth generation of those who reject me,

20: but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

20:7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name;

20:8 Remember the Sabbath Day

20: Six days you shall labor and do all your work

20:10 But the seventh day is the Sabbath to the LORD YOUR God; you shall not work- you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock or the alien resident in your towns.

20:11 For 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.

20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

20:13 You shall not murder

20:14 You shall not commit adultery

20:15 You shall not steal

20:16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor

20:17 You shall not covet your neighbors house; you shall not covet your neighbors wife or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

NEW TESTAMENT:

A reading from the Gospel of John 2: 13-22 – Sue Milici

2:13 The Passover of the Jews was near and Jesus went up to Jerusalem

2:14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.

2:15 Making the whip of cords, he drove all them out of the temple, both of the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

2:16 He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!”

2:17 His disciples remembered it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

2:18 The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show for doing this?”

2:19 Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’”

2:20 The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?”

2:21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

2:22 After 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

Rev. MaryAnn Purtill

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

You give us Your commandments, Holy One, so we may have new life, but we continue to make the same old choices. Your love can anchor us when life threatens to overwhelm us, but we choose to cling to the slippery rocks of anger and bitterness. Your Word can strengthen us for every moment, but we listen to the foolish promises of the world. Forgive us, may every word be shaped by Your Word; may every thought be refined by Your grace; may every deed be inspired by Your Spirit, so we may tell everyone we meet of Your work in us, through Jesus Christ, AMEN.

SILENCE

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (In Unison)

When brokenhearted prayers replace piety, when we seek wholeness through the One broken for us, then we remember we are saved by God's powerful love.

We are healed, to bring healing to our world;

we are strengthened in faith, to become strength for others;

we are set free so we may become servants of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION - NCH # 332 "As We Gather at Your Table"

1 As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to
make Love's victory known.

2 Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing
peace where there is strife.

Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

PRESENTATION OF THE ELEMENTS

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE RESPOND TO GOD

**THE CHURCH AT PRAYER
PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY
A PROMISE OF OFFERING**

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

HYMN NCH # 76 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe. The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching shall blossom in action for god and for all. God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the tasks of our everyday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children of of each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us; unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

BENEDICTION

WE CARRY THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

THE POSTLUDE

**The end of worship is the beginning of our service to God.
Go forth and serve God gladly.**

