

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 21, 2021

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It is in these uncertain times,

People: God is fulfilling the promise of the new covenant.

Leader: Wherever we are, however we worship,

People: may our hearts be filled with love.

Leader: Through quarantine and lockdowns,

People: God has held tight to our hands to lead us through.

**God's Word continues to shape us, to encourage us,
to challenge us to faithful lives in these uncertain times.**

Leader: In new ways, sometimes uncomfortable, we have learned
to reach out to neighbors, friends, family, even strangers.

**People: Beyond these moments and days, we remain ready
to serve all of God's people, to share in this covenant of grace**

ALL: Let us worship the God of everlasting covenants

HYMN OF PRAISE # 18 NCH "Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

1. Guide me, O thou great
Redeemer, pilgrim through
this
barren land; I am weak, but
you are mighty;
hold me with thy powerful
hand. Bread of heaven,
bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal
fountain, where the healing
waters flow. Let the fire
and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey
through. Strong deliverer,
strong deliverer,
ever be my strength and
shield, ever be my strength
and shield.

3. When I reach the River
Jordan, bid my anxious
fears
subside. Death of death,
and hell's destruction,
land me safe on heavens
side. Songs of praises,
songs of praises I will
ever sing to you. I will ever
sing to you.

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

God of everlasting covenants, even in these continuing days of uncertainty, You fill our hearts with joy. You shaped us in Your image, and like a gardener, You plant seeds of love, hope, grace deep into our very souls.

As we gather together to worship You, we proclaim Your goodness and we offer our thanks and praise.

Meet us here, we pray, O God. Join our hearts in wholehearted worship. Breathe Your word into our souls; engrave Your covenant of grace into our minds and hearts. Cultivate Your character in us, inspire and shape us, unite and encourage us, that our lives may reflect Your love and justice to the world.

United as a Body of Christ we offer the prayer of our Redeemer...

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 and ever. Amen.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 31:31-34

"The days are coming," says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant

I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt, a covenant that they broke though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days says the LORD: "I will put my law within them, and I will be and they shall be. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord", for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," says the LORD." For I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

NEW TESTAMENT:

Reading from the Gospel of John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, "we wish to see Jesus." ² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life shall lose it, and those who hate their life in

this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also, whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it said it was thunder. Others said “An angel had spoken to him.”

Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up^[g] from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

SERMON Rev. MaryAnn Purtill

HYMN - # 217 B “Lord of All Hopefulness”

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can
destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we
pray, Your
bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the
day.

2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the
plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your
strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of
the day.

3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to
embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we
pray, Your
love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the
day.

4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose
presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we
pray, Your
peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the
day.

WE RESPOND TO GOD

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

SUFFICIENTLY BLESSED LET US BE A BLESSING IN RETURN

OFFERTORY

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (in unison)

A SILENT 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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you.

Through Your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

HYMN 198 NCH “Lift High The Cross” verses 1, 3, 5

1. Come, Christians, follow
where our Savior trod,
the lamb victorious, Christ
of the Child of God.

3. O Christ, once lifted on
the glorious tree, your
death has brought us life
eternally.

5. So shall our song of
triumph ever be: praise
to the Crucified for victory!

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.**