

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
April 18, 2021
WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

FOR YOUR MEDITATION

“To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, but to live gratitude is to touch heaven.” Johannes A. Gaertner

We enter, never as strangers, but always as guests of God. If you come as a stranger, please know it is our intention you leave as a friend. No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, we welcome you this morning! May you experience God’s presence, and receive the blessing God has prepared for you.

THE PRELUDE

**A WELCOME IN CHRISTIAN LOVE
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Let us welcome each other with a word or gesture of peace.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE INTROIT

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST & PEACE CANDLES

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God, who remains ever faithful to us, continues to bless us.

People: *As thankful stewards, we remain faithful to God.*

Leading: Christ, who loves us with abiding love, continues to bless us

People: *As redeemed stewards, we remain faithful to Christ.*

Leader: The Holy Spirit, who empowers us, continues to bless us.

People: *As spirit-filled stewards, we remain faithful to Christ.*

*HYMN OF PRAISE (NCH - black) #565 “*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*”

1 God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door: Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

2 Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one. Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone; born with talents make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred; Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word. Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call, healing, teaching and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.

4 Lend your joy to all our giving; let it light our pilgrim way; From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day. Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span, God fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.

***PRAYER OF PRAISE AND INVOCATION (unison)**(we use "sins")

Faithful Light, shine in our hearts. Faithful goodness, hear our prayers. Faithful wisdom, inspire us. We seek You with all our heart and mind and strength. Welcome us into Your love as we pray in Jesus' name, the One who taught us to pray,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S LIVING WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Children are invited to come forward)

SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 3: 1-10 NIV

Lay Reader – Denise Parmenter

1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. **2** Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. **3** When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. **4** Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” **5** So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” **7** Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. **8** He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. **9** When all the people saw him walking and praising God, **10** they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Sermon: “From Treasure to Tithe” By: Rev. MaryAnn Purtill

MUSICAL RESPONSE**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD****WE BRING GOD OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS****THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER****OFFERTORY**

We covenant with God through our tithes and offerings

***PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

(If able, please bring your pledge forward and place it in the Cross before returning to your seat. If unable, you may signal a deacon who will bring your pledge forward.)

HYMN - (NCH - black) #370 “What Gift Can We Bring”

1What gift can we bring, what present, what token? What words can convey it the joy of this day? When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, what song can we now offer in honor and praise?

2Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision, who planted and watered so dreams could come true. Give thanks for the Now, for study, for worship, for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.

3Give thanks for Tomorrow, full of surprises for knowing whatever Tomorrow may bring, the Word is our promise always, forever, we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.

4This gift we now bring, this present, this token, these words can convey it the joy of this day! When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, this song we now offer in honor and praise.

***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 FOR TITHES AND OFFERINGS (unison)**

Eternal Light, Eternal Goodness, Eternal Wisdom, all that we have is a gift of Your faithfulness. Accept these offerings of thanksgiving; symbols of our grateful response to Christ's abiding love for us. May their use bring the good news of Your presence to those who have need. Amen.

***HYMN (NCH - black) #562** “Take My Gifts”

1Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me, gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free. now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away, now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

2Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed, harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,

spiced with humor, laced with laughter flavor of the Jesus life, tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

3Take whatever I can offer gifts that I have yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - NCH # 81“God Be with You” vs 1**

God be with you till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you until we meet again

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

THE POSTLUDE

The end of worship, the beginning of service. Go forth and serve God gladly.

* “We rise up for God”

We Welcome all who worship with us this morning. If you are a visitor and have no church home, we hope you find a home here. If you are “passing through,” we offer you God’s blessings as you continue on your journey, and thank you for sharing with us.

WEEKLY PRAYER

Today I purpose to live ~ Michael john Faciane

My life will shine
As the morning sings
I walk in liberty
Bound in true dreams
Manifested promises
Chase my forward motion
A covered path before me
The fruits of my hoping
The fruits of my living

Today I purpose to love
My love will speak
With the sound of grace
Merciful within mercy
The works of my faith
Smiles of overflowing
Inspire my giving
Abundance of joy as rain
The fruits of my living

LAY READER – Anyone wishing to share in the leadership of worship by reading the Scripture or bringing a children’s sermon, please sign-up on the appropriate list in the Parish Hall and speak with Dixie Silvestri.

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

April – Jack Sabine

TODAY IS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

The Stewardship Committee is looking forward to “Hoeing” in your pledges for the 2021-22 Fiscal year on Sunday the 18th.

Bell Choir will be helping the Stewardship Committee to Hoe in Pledges on Sunday April 18 with a concert in the Parking lot (weather permitting) at Noon

If the weather is not cooperating, they will have the concert in the foyer of the church with it being broadcasted to the parking lot for everyone’s enjoyment.

NOTES ON THE TEXT

April 18, 2021

Acts 3:1-10

This story illustrates the ministry of the apostles in Jerusalem. Their activity is in the temple, at 3 pm when sacrifices were offered with prayer.

The healing story follows the typical form of healing stories in the gospels:

- the ill person and the healer meet (Acts 3:1-3), including a description of the ill person’s condition that makes healing seem difficult (Acts 3:2);
- a healing action and words are narrated (Acts 3:4-7a); the actual healing occurs (Acts 3:7b);
- proof of the healing is described (Acts 3:8); and witnesses are described as being amazed at the healing (Acts 3:9-10). Luke’s use of this stereotypical form for healings demonstrates a continuity between the work of the apostles and that of Jesus, this story encourages us today to see the work in which the church engages as continuing that of Jesus and the apostles.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

*Sunday (18th) **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtill

12:00 PM Bell Choir Concert in Church Parking Lot (weather
permitting)

1:00 PM Walking Group

*Monday (19th)

*Tuesday (20th)

*Wednesday (21st)

10:00 AM Fair Workshop

7:00 PM Handbell Choir

*Thursday (22nd)

*Friday (23rd)

*Saturday (24th)

8:00AM-12:00PM WAIM Flea Market

*Sunday (25th) **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER- EARTH DAY
CELEBRATION**

10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtill

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