



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Third Sunday in Lent
7 March 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Magnificat: Cantilena

Marcel Dupré

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

John Cross and Jim Kontio

People of the covenant:

God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions.

God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;

My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

***Lenten Candle Service**

We journey together this season of Lent: a time to reflect, a time to forgive, a time to repent. As we extinguish the third Lenten candle, we remember the gift of the ten words to Moses on Mount Sinai and Christ's journey to the cross. Let us pray: Loving God, thank you for the gift of your word in the covenant to Moses which provides boundaries and honors relationships on our individual journeys. Thank you for the Word becoming flesh in Christ Jesus and the journey of love he traveled to Calvary. Amen.

***Hymn**

How Lovely, Lord

Merle's Tune

How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;
and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day
is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord
than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.

A sun and shield forever are you, O Lord Most High;
you shower us with blessings; no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Christian K. Choi

In Christ's willingness to embrace our humanity and travel into the brokenness of our hearts and lives, we find courage, power and love, dear God. We pause to acknowledge our need for you and to ask your forgiveness for those things we have done that have not honored you or those with whom we share the gift of life. Gentle Spirit, resurrect our defeated spirits, renew our hope of wholeness, and guide us by your light on our Lenten journey. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

***Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

Response Spirit of the Living God David Iverson
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

First Scripture Reading Exodus 20:1-17 Rev. Trajan I. McGill
Then God spoke all these words: ² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me.
Celebrate love at the center of every moment and every day. This is God's way.
⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 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 the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.
Celebrate the images of God all around without having to capture it in stone.
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.
Celebrate God's name and bless the world when you speak it.
⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 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.
Celebrate the wonders of God by finding the space and the time to revel in nothing but God.
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.
Celebrate those who gave you life and fed you on love.
¹³ You shall not murder.
Celebrate by seeking out the life in each person.
¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.
Celebrate the value and worth of the people around you.
¹⁵ You shall not steal.
Celebrate the wealth of life in sharing all you have.

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Celebrate the truth by witnessing to the good in the other.

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

Celebrate what God has given you, the unique gifts and qualities that make you, you. The Word of the Lord. Amen.

Solo En Prière

Gabriel Fauré

If the voice of a child can reach you, O my father,
Hear my prayer, on bended knee before you.
you have chosen me to teach your laws on earth,
I will know how to serve you, noble King of kings, O light!
On my lips, God, place the salutary truth, in order that he who doubts
should with humility revere you. Do not abandon me,
give me the necessary gentleness to ease suffering, to relieve sorrow and misery.
Reveal yourself to me, my God, in whom I trust and hope:
for you I wish to suffer and die on the cross at Calvary.

Second Scripture Reading

John 2:13-22

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

Sermon Covenant of Boundaries

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, Out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:2-3

Solo Patiently Have I Waited for the Lord

Camille Saint-Saëns

Patiently have I waited for the Lord, and lo! He heard my cry. Psalm 40:1

The Church at Prayer

Soloist: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

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 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.

*Introduction to the Offering

***Offertory Response** Doxology

Prayer of Dedication God of mercy, thank you for the covenant of boundaries that broaden our perspective and enrich our life experience. Give us the grace and courage to accept the limitations that are a part of our humanity and the wisdom to live by the laws of the heart, that we may know your voice and discover our own. Accept these offerings, we pray, and teach us to be generous, in the gifts we share and in the lives we live. Amen.

***Hymn** O God, Who Gives Us Life *Noel*

O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Postlude in g-minor Denis Bédard
(The congregation is invited to stand.*

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life
Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
John Cross and Jim Kontio (Lenten Candle Service)
Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts
Diane Dietz, Soprano Lyle VanDeventer, Base
Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers
Jeanne and Pete VanGieson, Greeters
Becky McDonald and Pat Moore, Ushers
Mary Ray, Safety Team