

LISTEN...

Hearing that Still, Small Voice and Finding Your Own



First Presbyterian Church OF LAKE FOREST

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Come, Holy Spirit, come:

Enter our lives.

Free us from all fear.

Give us strength to carry on.

Give us hope and joy sufficient for each day.

Come, Holy Spirit, come:

Give us power to be the church.

PRELUDE

How Great Thou Art

Arr. Robert A. Hobby, 2002

THE WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God's Spirit gives us good and varied gifts.

People: Praise be to God for the gift of loving one another.

Leader: Praise be to God for the ability to serve one another.

People: Our lives are enriched by these gifts from God.

All: Praise be to God that we are bound together as one by the Spirit which gives us these blessings.

* Please stand if you are able

***HYMN OF PRAISE, No. 435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

TUNE: IN BABILONE

(Please refrain from singing in the sanctuary.)

*There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.*

*There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.*

*There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.*

*There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.*

*For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.*

*And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.*

*If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

As we consider the dry bones of Ezekiel's vision, we realize that sometimes we are dry, lifeless, despairing in our Christian faith and practice. Let us pray.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Spirit and Breathe of Life, before you, we recognize that our spirits are not fully alive. We have succumbed to the sin of despair; we have been lifeless, not lively, in our faith. Like dry bones, we are brittle and break under pressure. Breathe your Spirit of power into us, that our faith may be active, in word and deed, and that your name may be glorified in Jesus, our Christ. Amen.

***KYRIE**

(Please refrain from singing in the sanctuary.)

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

* Please stand if you are able

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: The good news is that we depend not on ourselves, but on the Spirit of God to give us vitality. Thanks be to God

People: **Amen.**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

(Please refrain from singing in the sanctuary.)

*Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!
O still, small voice of calm!*

***PASSING THE PEACE**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:26-30, 38-39 (NLT)

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us

* Please stand if you are able

from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

"For the Good"

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

OFFERTORY

This is My Father's World

Arr. Richard Walters

GATHERING SONG

Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____ Come to the
ta - ble of grace. _____ This is God's ta - ble; it's
not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

* Please stand if you are able

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, PETITION, AND INTERCESSION

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Please eat the bread and drink the juice you have brought with you that is now sanctified in the Spirit. Bread and juice in sanitized containers are available for you to use if you did not bring your own. Our ushers are here to assist you.

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you, God, for renewing us at your table by the presence of our Christ. Thank you for your eternal love, the Bread of Life, that sustains all creation. May you continue to love us in our faithful acts and by that love discourage us from our unfaithful acts, that we might rejoice as your servants to the world. **Amen.**

***HYMN OF SENDING No. 282**

Come Down, O Love Divine

TUNE: DOWN AMPNEY

(Please refrain from singing in the sanctuary.)

Come down, O Love Divine;

seek out this soul of mine,

and visit it with your own ardor glowing.

O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear

and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,

till earthly passions turn

to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.

And let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,

and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

* Please stand if you are able

*And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling.
For none can guess God's grace, till Love creates
a place wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Come, Holy Ghost, Lord God, BuxWV 199

Dietrich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

Today's liturgy is taken from
"Flames of the Spirit" (Pilgrim Press, 1985),
edited by Ruth C. Duck

NOTES

*To give online or fulfill your pledge: FirstChurchLF.org/give

*To give to our COVID-19 Fund: FirstChurchLF.org/give/covid-fund-donations

*For information on our Mission Food Depot: FirstChurchLF.org/mission-food-depot

Pastor Clint's day off is on Monday. Pastor Kristie's day off is on Friday.

Worship Participants

Rev. Clinton Roberts

Rev. Kristie Finley

Jim Cochrane, Director of Youth Ministries

Sarah Seccombe, Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Barry Wenger, Director of Bell Choirs and Organist

Dr. Tom Tropp, Director of Music and Arts

Susan Noble, Director of Children's Music

Choral Scholars

Will Elliot, AV Support

Peter Elliot, AV Support



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