

¹⁶“When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Genesis 9:16–17



Abington Presbyterian Church

February 21, 2021

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

First Sunday in Lent

ORDER OF WORSHIP
1st Sunday in Lent February 21, 2021

GATHERING

The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP *A time for quiet preparation before worship*

O God, you bring your saving acts into human history. You also bring your lively promises for future fulfillment. Equip us in this time of worship to live fully in the present. Amen.

PRELUDE Andantino from First Sonata *Florence Price*

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lift up your souls to the Living God who is in covenant with all of creation.

We wait on our Maker, trusting God's kindness and seeking to know God's ways.

Raise your eyes to behold Christ showing us that God's realm is more powerful than death.

We delight in the One who redeems us and shows us the way to abundant living.

Attune yourselves to the dynamic presence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

We commit to being good stewards of the Spirit's gifts placed in our care.

*** HYMN 22** God of the Sparrow

INVITATION TO CONFESSION OF SINS

The season of Lent is a time where in penitential prayer we acknowledge our sinfulness before God and one another as a way of relying upon God's grace to offer us a way forward.

HYMN 415 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy *verse 1*

Leader: Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

All: **I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms. In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come to you, O God, an unfaithful people caught in systems of brokenness that grip all that we know. Our trespasses show that we treat your world as if it belonged to us instead of to you. We downplay the harsh consequences of how our behavior impacts the most vulnerable. In selfishness, we disregard the rights and needs of future generations. Restore us to proper relationship with you, with our neighbors, and with your created order.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

With gratitude to the God whose mercy never ends, we celebrate that –
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

* RESPONSE Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me *Hymn #582*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

* THE PEACE OF CHRIST *Greet one another with the sign of peace.*

**The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.**

WORD

God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 25:1-10

**The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 9:8-17

**The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

SERMON The Everlasting Covenant *The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill*

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

THANKSGIVING & SENDING

After the proclamation of God's Word, we respond with gratitude prepared to go into the world where we are called to live according to God's will.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

* HYMN 713

Touch the Earth Lightly

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Concerto in A minor after Vivaldi BWV 593

Johann Sebastian Bach

[service hymns and some announcements follow]

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

Liturgist: The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

Children's Message: Ruth Sall

Choir: Alice and Bill Price

Organ: Erik Meyer

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"Concerto in A minor after Vivaldi BWV 593" by Johann Sebastian Bach. Public Domain.

In need of special prayers this week: Len Browna, Michael Kemp, Laura Lockhart, Sylvia Weed (mother of Kathryn Jablokow), Barbara LaNore (sister of Lynda Smyth), Sylvia Jolly, MM Harris, Herb Harris, Gary Lynch (son of Doug Lynch), Chris Popescu (aunt of Joanne Bates), Marty Bell (cousin of Alice Price), Elizabeth Cole (granddaughter of Nancy Webb Cole), Doris Boerner, Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), Janet Wells (mother of Gwen Bihn), Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis),

Linda Maisenhelder, Christine Kim (wife of Stephen Kim), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Phyllis Frazier, Nick Cupo, Sr., Joanne Hawkins (mother of Nick Cupo), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Susan Arnhold (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Kris and Erik Reidenbach (friends of Sally Adams), Pat Slimmer (friend of Anne and Ray Rife), David Fryer (husband of Rabbi Shoshana Tornberg, friend of APC), Meredith Ellisor, (cousin of Craig Nicholson).

For Pastoral Care: To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.

The silk arrangement from Kremp Florist is given to the church in loving memory of Bobbie and Ned Leiby by Susan and Gil High.

LENTEN PAPER LACE BANNERS:

You will notice in our worship livestream/video that two banners have joined the chancel this season. These designs are part of a larger series of artwork designed for this Lenten season by the collective group of liturgical artists at A Sanctified Art. Worship Council and staff hope the imagery and impact of the banners engage you in a new way during this season whether online or in the sanctuary recognizing that your experience with the works will be wholly individual even as you share it with all in the APC community. Below are the artist's descriptions of some theological inspirations and background which may give a broader invitation to engage the with these works. (Images for "Drawn to Love" and "Prevenient" by Hannah Garrity, A Sanctified Art LLC, www.sanctifiedart.org remain copyrighted property licensed for use.)



Drawn to Love

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by John 12:20-33 | *Paper lace*

I love borders. I place them in my artwork so that I can break them. They set up a reiteration of balance; they allow for a secondary or tertiary focal point. They introduce a conversation. In this image, the border allows for variation in the foreground and separation in the sky. The wheat breaks through the border. The horizon continues past the border. What are the metaphors within this imagery? People are drawn to Jesus, drawn to love. I portray God's voice with cumulonimbus clouds, the clouds of thunderstorms. As they move upward toward the heavens, they become wheat and doves.

The image incorporates a border representing the loving constraints that Jesus' ministry places on our lives and choices. What would Jesus do? Jesus would love.

The wheat grows beyond the border of life; the wheat brings forth a standard of daring love. "Those who love their life lose it" (John 12:25). The wheat breaks the border, it dances with the voice of God, it is not cautious, it is not scarce. It is love.

—Hannah Garrity



Prevenient

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Ephesians 2:1-10 | *Paper lace*

In our group study of the lectionary scriptures for Lent, Lisle was quick to tell me that this text matters a lot to Reformed theologians. I needed that theological and historical context. My first reading had brought nothing deep or important. I had completely missed what our Reformed thinkers had contemplated for centuries. Here are my notes from our conversation:

"This Ephesians text is really important to Reformed theologians.

The idea in Paul's words is all about God's grace, not works. Prevenient grace—we are given grace and we live our lives in response to that grace. This makes me think of the Paul Simon lines,

'And as I watch the drops of rain

Weave their weary paths and die

I know that I am like the rain

There but for the grace of you go I.'

I imagine a flow of water; it speaks of baptism. The ripple represents the expansive effect of God's prevenient grace."

Repetition in art is important. When I first created this piece, it appeared to me to be three different images.

The sky, the distant water, and the ripple in the foreground. As I stared at the three patterns, I desired unification. Perhaps I'd repeat the ripple in the sky, or maybe add thin lines in the foreground to tie it in. But maybe, metaphorically, this separation can represent the idea of prevenient grace. The sky and the distance appear separated from the present. God's grace—represented in the water ripple in the foreground—will eventually connect us to it all.

—Hannah Garrity

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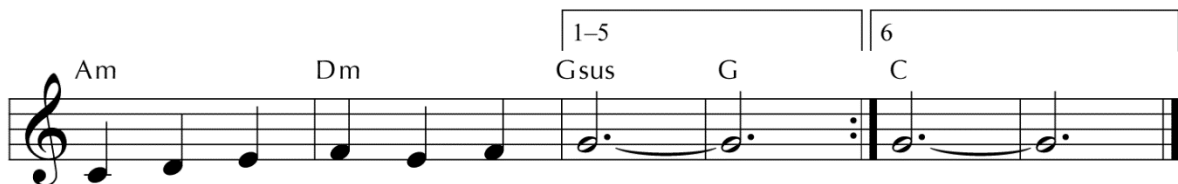
God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy




How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life
 How does the crea - ture say Peace
 How do your chil - dren say Home

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.


713 Touch the Earth Lightly

Capo 3: (G) (Dsus) (D) (Em) (Bsus) (Bm)
 B^b Fsus F Gm Dsus Dm



1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

(C) (D7) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)
 E^b F7 B^b Cm7 Fsus F



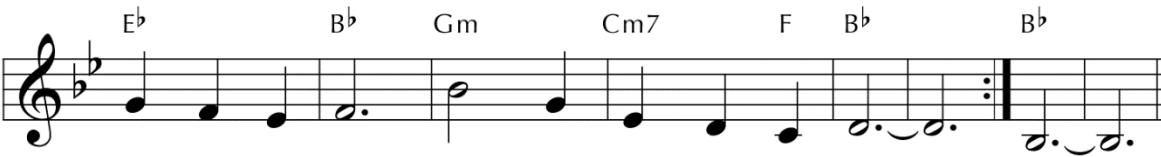
nour - ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

(G) (Dsus) (D) (Em) (Bsus) (Bm)
 B^b Fsus F Gm Dsus Dm



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 we who would fos - ter clouds of di - sas - ter,
 health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

(C) (G) (Em) (Am7) (D) (G) (G)
 E^b B^b Gm Cm7 F B^b B^b



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly and mak - ing us one.