

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9



Abington Presbyterian Church

March 14, 2021

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

ORDER OF WORSHIP
4th Sunday in Lent March 14, 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, from before the earth began you thought of us. Before we were born you considered our frailties. And yet, in your infinite love and wisdom, all of creation was brought forth at the sound of your voice. Thank you for your deep love for us. Amen.

PRELUDE

Out of the Depths I Cry to You, O God BWV 686

J. S. Bach

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Week by week, we journey through Lent in faith.

Let us gather to worship our Heavenly Parent who redeems us from trouble.

Day by day, we seek to focus on God's love and mercy.

Let us be satisfied by the gifts of the Spirit.

Hour by hour, we experience God's amazing grace.

Let us proclaim the gospel of Christ on this day!

*** HYMN 409**

God is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

CALL TO CONFESSION

While we were still sinners, Christ died so that we might live. And yet, Christ lavishes His love upon us and all of creation. As we worship, we prepare to confess our sins before God.

HYMN 415

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

verse 3

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;

if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at 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

Merciful God, your steadfast love for us reaches to the heavens. We are once again on our knees with sorrow and regret. We confess that we have not lived well despite our many blessings. Our choices have harmed the earth. Our words and actions have harmed each other. Our habits have harmed ourselves. Forgive us once again, O God, and set our feet upon the rock of your salvation. In Jesus' name.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Spirit of God leads us to the waters of mercy and we are clothed in righteousness.

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 107:1-3, 17-22
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

* BELL VOLUNTARY Simple Gifts *arr. Patricia Sanders Kota*
Presented online by the Festive Ringers from a recording in February.

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 2:1-10
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON Truth and Consequences *The Rev. Aaron Twitchell*

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;

**the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

THANKSGIVING FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE

* HYMN 649

Amazing Grace

AMAZING GRACE

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

We All Believe in One True God BWV 680

J. S. Bach

[service hymns and some announcements follow]

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

Liturgist: The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

Bells: Festive Ringers (online recording)

Choir: Cynthia Browna and Kimberly Browna

Organist: Erik Meyer

Children's Message: Ruth Sall

Ushers today are: Joe Ayoub Linda Ayoub

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"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me " words from trad. liturgical text; adapt. Paul M. Vasile, ©2008

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"Simple Gifts" from a Shaker Melody arr. Patricia Sanders Kota. This arrangement ©1996 Agape, Carol Stream (Hope). Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-729335. All rights reserved.

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"We All Believe in One True God (Wir glauben all') BWV 680" 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), Janet Lynn Hudson Caldwell (mother of Sarah Caldwell-Berry), Mark Meissner (son of Judy Meissner).

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.

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.)

God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an

of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in
 life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,
 Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and
 age of change and doubt keep us faith - ful

full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.
 font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.
 wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CHOCTAW

*Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 hatak ilbusha pia ha
 is pi yukpalashke.*

CREEK

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 ah non ah cha pa kas
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 um e ha ta la yus.*

NAVAHO

*Nizhónítgo joobá diits' a'
 yisdáshítinígí,
 lah yóóiiyá, k'ad
 shénáhoosdzin,
 doo eesh'íí da út'ée.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsosie
 MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt.

AMAZING GRACE
 CM

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