

# Calvary Presbyterian Church: *A Cross-Shaped Life*

LENTEN SERIES 2021



**Online Worship Resource** (Sunday, February 21, 2021)

**BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION**

Prelude:

***The Gift of Love***

Arr. Hal Hopson

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.  
Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.*

Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Ernest Amankwah, Liturgist

Please join me in our responsive Call to Worship:

The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

**The journey begins in the wilderness.**

We follow the ways of Jesus, who faced trials, trouble, temptation and testing.

**Like Jesus, we are not alone.**

**The Holy Spirit is with us. God's Word is on our lips.**

Our call is to trust in God alone, to do God's will in all things.

**For God leads us not only into the wilderness, but also through it.**

**Opening Hymn:** "God of Grace and God of Glory"

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;  
Crown thine ancient church's story; Bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Cure thy children's warring madness; Bend our pride to thy control.  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.  
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

Call to Confession

(Liturgist)

The psalmist reminds us that, "Happy are those whose sin is forgiven, who no longer suffer in silence, but name their sin and seek God's grace." Let us confess our sin together, saying . . .

## Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We cling to our own wisdom and strength, exposing our immature understanding of faith. We prefer easy substitutes to the hard work of loving sacrifice. We choose self-centeredness over the cross-shaped life you desire for us. Have mercy on us, we pray. Cover us with your grace and re-create us in the image of your son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

## Silent Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven! Be glad in the Lord and shout for joy:  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## Passing the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Children's Time

### Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the Prayer for Illumination:

**Gracious God, in rushing waters and in dry wilderness, in every season and circumstance, we need your sustaining word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, proclaim the good news to us today, that we might repent and believe and see anew how your kingdom is coming in and among us. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9a

<sup>1</sup>And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?

<sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

<sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's servants, working together.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon     A Cross-Shaped Life: Growing Up in Christ     Rev. Michelle Fincher

**Hymn after Sermon:** "In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified"

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

Call to offering

(Liturgist)

As a mark of our ever-growing maturity in faith, we respond to the needs of the world in tangible ways: by acts of justice and compassion and by sharing our resources that the good news of Christ may be shared with others. Thank you for enabling the ministry and mission of this church to continue through your generous gifts. Please pray with me the prayer of dedication. . .

## **Prayer of Dedication:**

**Holy God, we give you these gifts with thanks, so that together we may plant and water the seed of your new kingdom. May we be your faithful, mature servants as we cultivate your love, knowing that in all we accomplish, it is you who gives the growth. Amen.**

## **Pastoral Prayer 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.**

## **Benediction**

Postlude:

### ***Our Refuge and Strength***

Callender

*Psalm 46*

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.  
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.  
"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth."  
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

## **Today's Worship Participants:**

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, guitar,  
David Maley, piano, Ernest Amankwah, liturgist, and  
Gene Kendall, technology team