



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, March 19, 2023)

Fourth Sunday in Lent

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Flowers given to the glory of God by the Kerr family in celebration of John's birthday.

Prelude: Andantino and Andante Benjamin Godard
"For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."
Ephesians 2:8
Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Margaret Yeboah, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in our responsive Call to Worship:
God does not see as humans see.

We look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.

Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

Once we walked in darkness, but now, as children of light, we are called to what is
good and right and true.

Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

Hymn #15, vs. 1,4,6

All Creatures of our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam, sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain or sorrow grieve, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears; so, even in the midst of tears, sing praises!
Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! Sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Call to Confession

(Liturgist)

As children of God, we are called to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace. Let us pray together...

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we claim to be people of light, but we still love the darkness. We keep shameful deeds secret but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, Lord. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our lives. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, living a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

Forgiven and renewed, we live as children of the light, for Christ shines in and on us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response: #288 Spirit of the Living God

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.

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

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

Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as your Word is read, that by the power of your Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to walk in your light, that your glory may become visible in our words and deeds. Amen.

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-14

OT p. 259

(Liturgist)

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ ² Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.’ And the LORD said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.” ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, ‘Do you come peaceably?’ ⁵ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.’ ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.’ ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, ‘Neither has the LORD chosen this one.’ ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the LORD chosen this one.’ ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The LORD has not chosen any of these.’ ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.’ ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, ‘Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.’ ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. ¹⁴ Now the spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.

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

Sermon

Grace Under Pressure

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Fight the good fight with all thy might. Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be, thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up thine eyes, and see Christ's face.

Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside; lean on thy guide. God's boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near. God changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.

Call to Offering

(Liturgist)

Our lives overflow with the goodness and grace of God, so let us share with others what we have so abundantly received. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the mission and ministry of God's kingdom. Please pray with me our prayer of dedication...

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, for all that you have done for us, especially for bringing us into the light of Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. Grant us courage and grace that we may live as children of light, bearing fruit for your kingdom. For the sake of Christ, we pray. 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.

Hymn # 2162

Grace Alone

Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,
Every difference we can make is only by his grace.
Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,
Every blessing left behind, is only by his grace.

REFRAIN: Grace alone which God supplies, Strength unknown he will provide.
Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go forth in grace alone.

Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach,
Everywhere we share his peace is only by his grace.
Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away,
Every sorrow turned to praise, is only by his grace. (REFRAIN)

Benediction

Postlude: Lift High the Cross Nicholson/Shackley
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, Director of Music, Rachel Jelsma, Trumpet

Margaret Yeboah, liturgist and Gabriel Frempong, technology team