

# The Presbyterian Church at Bound Brook

March 17, 2024

10:00 a.m.

## The Fifth Sunday of Lent

# WELCOME

PRELUDE	Perger Präludium in C major, WAB 129	Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)
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INTROIT                      Grant, O God, Your Blessing                      Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

Grant, O God, your blessing on us as we pray;  
Grant, O God, your blessing on us all this day.  
Just as Jesus prayed to you in the wilderness,  
Let us pray ev'ry day; hear, O Lord, and bless.  
Grant, O God, your blessing on us as we pray;  
Grant, O God, your blessing on us all this day.  
For the things that we do wrong, please, O God, forgive.  
Help us all, great and small, live as Jesus lived. Amen.

## TOLLING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Why are you here?

**ALL: I am seeking God with my whole heart,  
with my entire mind,  
with a fire burning in my bones.**

ONE: I see it! You're in the right place!  
This is God's house. The door is open to you.

**ALL: Why are *you* here?**

ONE: I am seeking God with my whole heart,  
with my entire mind,  
with a fire burning in my bones.

**ALL: We see that in you! You're in the right place.  
This is God's house. The door is open to you.**

ONE: Let us worship God.

**ALL: Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!**

\*HYMN #316      Where Charity and Love Prevail      TWENTY-FOURTH  
[vv. 1, 2, 4, 5]

### \*OPENING ACCLAMATION

ONE: Blessed be the God of our salvation

**ALL: Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION - unison

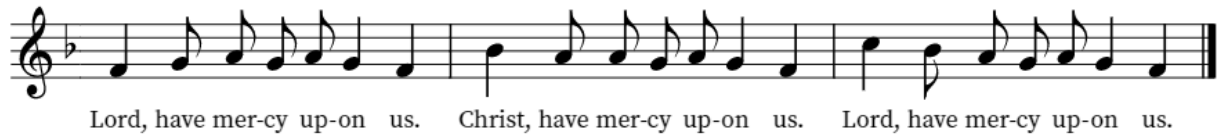
Holy God,  
We long to be lifelong learners.  
We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead,  
we often live as if we know best.  
We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher."

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.  
Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.  
Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is  
done and that we have all the answers.

Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, “How many times should we forgive?”—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters.  
With hope and humility, we pray, amen.

\*KYRIE

John Merbecke (1550)



\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: Family of faith,  
When Peter asked Jesus, “How many times should I forgive?”  
Jesus responded with abundance.  
That abundance exists for you as well.

**ALL: No matter what we have done or left undone,  
no matter what lessons we have learned  
or are still learning,  
God’s abundant grace exists for us.  
God’s love will never run out.**

ONE: So hear and rest in this good news:  
You are forgiven.  
You are loved.  
You are invited to serve.

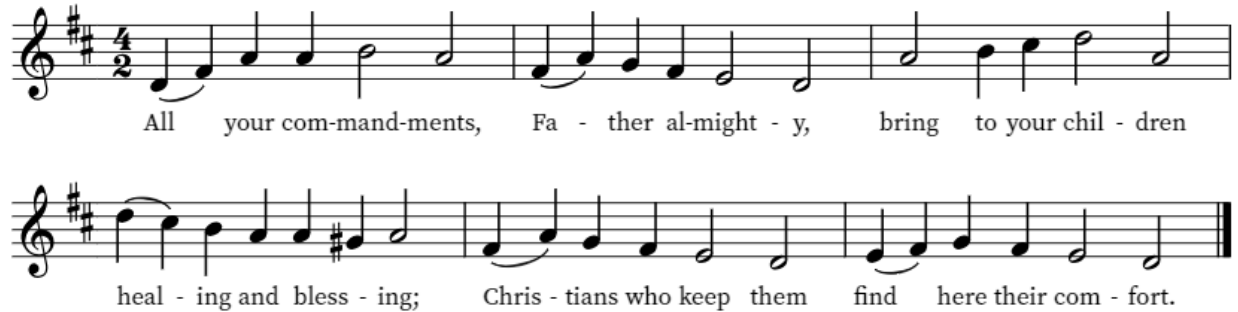
**ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

CHILDREN’S TIME

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER – Psalm 119:9-16

**Refrain** *[the choir will sing the refrain first; on the repeat the congregation will join, and for each subsequent refrain]*



How can young people keep their way pure?  
By guarding it according to your word.

**With my whole heart I seek you;**

**Do not let me stray from your commandments.**

I treasure your word in my heart,  
So that I may not sin against you.

**Blessed are you, O Lord;**

**Teach me your statutes.                      *Refrain***

With my lips I declare  
All the ordinances of your mouth.

**I delight in the way of your decrees**

**As much as in all riches.**

I will meditate on your precepts,  
And fix my eyes on your ways.

**I will delight in your statutes;**

**I will not forget your word.                      *Refrain***

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 18:15-22

Response after reading:

ONE: The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Faith Without Borders

Rev. Linda E. Owens

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Ted Settle  
One Great Hour of Sharing

## JOYS & CONCERNS

### PRAYER OF 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.**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

**ONE:** The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

### GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM God So Loved the World John Goss (1800-1880)

God so loved the world,  
That He gave His only begotten Son,  
That whosoever believeth in Him  
Should not perish, but have everlasting life.  
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world;  
But that the world through Him might be saved. Amen.

### \*DOXOLOGY

### OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise

God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN #427

Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart

LOE DE ÍSÁ

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

The Way

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Tune: RATHBUN

Music by Ithamar Conkey, 1851

Faithfully, I learned to follow  
Step by step and not to stray  
Marching on with proud bravado,  
Claiming Jesus as the way.

POSTLUDE

Trio on Attende, Domine

Sarah MacDonald\*\*  
(b. 1968)

\*\*Sarah MacDonald is a Canadian-born UK-based conductor, composer, pianist, and organist. Sarah is Director of Music at Selwyn College, Cambridge, Director of the Girl Choristers at Ely Cathedral, and Organist to the University of Cambridge.

## **LEADING IN WORSHIP**

Reader: Sheila Breeding

Introit: BBPC Children's Choir and Bell Choir

Anthem: BBPC Adult Choir

Director of Christian Education: Lissette Gonzáles Sosa

Director of Music: Benjamin T. Berman

Pastor, Head of Staff: The Rev. Linda E. Owens

Technician: Bill Dettelback

*Liturgy by A Sanctified Art*

## **Giving, Sharing, Growing ...**

**Please consider what you have to give in time, talent and treasure to God's work in the world through the church.**

**Financial gifts should be sent to the church.**

**409 Mountain Avenue,  
Bound Brook, NJ 08805**

*or you can give online at*

**BBPC.ORG/GIVING**

*or*

**TEXT (732) 641-8448**



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