

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**FEBRUARY 21, 2021**  
**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

**PRELUDE**

**De profundis**

Jean Langlais  
 (1907-1991)

*As the prelude is played, prepare your home, yourself, and your family to enter into this time of worship.*

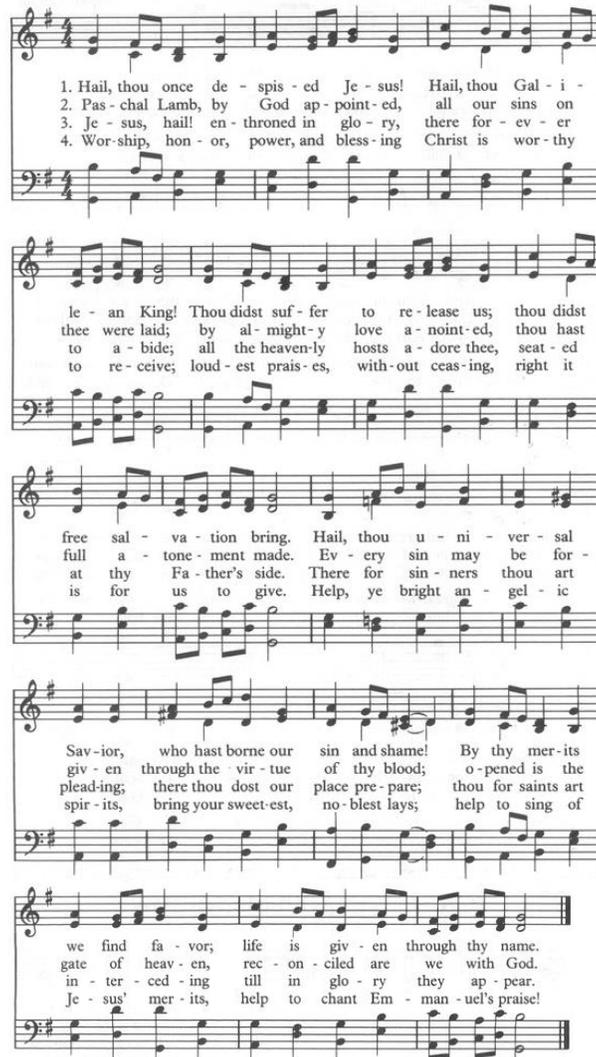
**OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)**

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**

**Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus**  
 Aldersgate Praise Band

**IN BABILONE**



## CALL TO CONFESSION

The sacrifice acceptable to the Lord is a contrite heart, the Psalmist prays. Let us in a posture of humility turn toward the living God in confession, that we might receive mercy and forgiveness.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

**Holy God: in this season of Lenten fasting, we remember Christ who went out into the desert to fast and undergo temptation. We confess that we are often distracted by material comforts and tempted to value them above the Kingdom of God. You, God, are our help in difficulty, Christ our inspiration. We confess that we do not live by bread or worldly provision alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Forgive us, we pray. May we fill our mouths, our hearts, our minds, now with your words, that we might be transformed and renewed. May we, with renewed hearts and minds, better serve the purposes of your Kingdom. May we, by setting aside worldly distractions, become more like Christ. May we, with purified motives and deeper understanding, receive Christ when he comes to us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

## PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news: "Christ himself suffered on account of our sins, once and for all, the righteous one on behalf of the unrighteous. He did this in order to bring you into the presence of God."

**People: Our salvation comes through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at God's right side.**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

**O Holy Spirit, by whose power we are raised with Christ, break open the Scriptures to us, that we might come face to face with the mystery of your unending love, and in our hearing come to follow our Lord Jesus Christ more closely. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

### I Peter 3:18-22

Christ himself suffered on account of sins, once for all, the righteous one on behalf of the unrighteous. He did this in order to bring you into the presence of God. Christ was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit. And it was by the Spirit that he went to preach to the spirits in prison. In the past, these spirits were disobedient—when God patiently waited during the time of Noah. Noah built an ark in which a few (that is, eight) lives were rescued through water. Baptism is like that. It saves you now—not because it removes dirt from your body but because it is the mark of a good conscience toward God. Your salvation comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at God's right side. Now that he has gone into heaven, he rules over all angels, authorities, and powers.



**CALL TO PRAYER**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Let us pray.

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## GIVING



## OFFERTORY

### Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days Chancel Choir

Robert J. Powell  
(b. 1932)

Lord, who throughout these forty days  
For us did fast and pray,  
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins  
And close by Thee to stay.

As Thou with Satan did contend,  
And did the victory win,  
O give us strength in Thee to fight,  
In Thee to conquer sin.

As Thou did hunger bear and thirst,  
So teach us, gracious Lord,  
To die to self, and chiefly live  
By Thy most holy Word.

And through these days of penitence,  
And through Thy Passiontide,  
Yea, evermore in life and death,  
Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life  
Of suffering over past,  
An Easter of unending joy  
We may attain at last!  
*-Claudia F. Hernaman (1838-1898)*

## BENEDICTION

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**Citation for Prayer of Confession:** Fran Pratt, Call and Response: Litanies for Congregational Prayer, (c) 2018 Outpost Press, p. 104.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Upper Room:** The March-April issue of The Upper Room is available. Please feel free to stop by the church and pick up a copy. Copies are located in the Welcome Center.

**Bible Study and Coffee with a Pastor:** Join Pastor Ross on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom for a Bible Study. This study is ongoing with Pastor Ross hosting the gatherings in February. Look for the Zoom link in Tuesday's *Front Street Happenings* email. If you would like to participate, but are unable to join us on Wednesday mornings, these gatherings are recorded and posted on our website and available to view at a time that suits you.

**Lent Literature:** We have available some literature to share containing suggestions that are designed to help you observe a holy Lent at home. The literature is available on the church website and in the Welcome Center.

**Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Patrick (via Zoom):** All are invited to walk through the book of Ruth this Lent with Pastor Patrick from the comfort of your own home. The ancient story of Ruth tells of an outsider, a migrant facing uncertainty in a strange land, a vulnerable female in a foreign culture; yet Ruth draws out generosity and justice and is herself the gift by which God will shape a new future for the people she chose as her own. This study will meet via Zoom **on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning February 18**. Look for the Zoom link in Tuesday's *Front Street Happenings* email.

**United Methodist Women:** United Methodist Women Circle #1 is collecting supplies for Hillcrest Elementary School. Facial tissues (i.e., Kleenex), paper towels, baby wipes, Clorox wipes, pencils, dry erase markers, and alcohol swabs (single-sized alcohol pads) may be left in Room 305 if you would like to contribute to this project. The final date for donations is **Wednesday, February 24**.

**Virtual Choir Project:** Everyone (age 5+) is invited to participate in another virtual choir project! The choir will sing "God Is Here" on Sunday, March 14 and "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" on Sunday, March 28 (Palm Sunday). We are also planning a virtual children's choir on Sunday, March 28, and would love to have children (ages 5+) sing the first stanza of "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna." To learn more or volunteer, contact Dr. Matt (matt@frontstreetumc.org) by **Friday, February 26**.

**Blood Drive:** Front Street will have a blood drive on **Saturday, February 27**, from **8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** in Aldersgate Hall. Donors can sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), sponsor code: Front Street. Also, donors may text or call Gene Fonville at 336-260-8114 (cell) for more information or to schedule your appointment.

**Project AGAPE: Preparing for Armenia Shipment 2021:** Our Conference and the Western NC Conference have been asked to help our friends in Armenia who have been forced to abandon their property due to military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The following is a list of supplies needed by the end of March 2021. These are items that are very hard to find in the mountainous areas of Eastern Armenia.

- New bed linens, pillows, and blankets
- New or like-new children's clothing (up to age 16)
- New shoes (old shoes cannot be shipped)

Donations may be dropped off in the Welcome Center. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please send a check to the church office with Project AGAPE noted in the memo line. The deadline for donations is **Friday, March 19**.

**Sanctuary Flowers:** The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one: **March 7, 14, and 21**. For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or kpaul5@triad.rr.com (email).

**Cereal and Canned Goods for the Salvation Army:** We continue to collect cereal and canned/dry goods for the Salvation Army. Please feel free to drop off these items any time during the month. You may deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center or call Betty Huneycutt (336-212-0704) for porch pick up. Thank you for your continued support of stocking the food pantry at the Salvation Army.

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

### **Prelude**

Jean Langlais was a French composer of modern classical music, organist, and improviser. He studied at the Paris Conservatory: organ under Marcel Dupré (1886-1971) and composition under Paul Dukas (1865-1935). He was organist at Ste. Clotilde from 1945 to the end of 1987, retiring at the age of 80. His works include masses and organ music, some based on Gregorian themes, enhanced by polymodal harmonies. The "De profundis" is from a set of pieces titled *Neuf Pièces* ("Nine Pieces") that were composed during the war years (1942 and 1943). The set is divided into three parts: the first part includes four chants (songs), the second part includes works based on Lutheran chorales, and the third part includes free paraphrases on Gregorian chants. This piece is based on the Lutheran chorale *Aus tiefer Not* ("Out of the Depths I Cry to You"), and can be found in The United Methodist Hymnal at No. 515. It is a penitential hymn based on Psalm 130, and it is often heard on Ash Wednesday, during Lent, at funerals and memorial services, or in healing services.

### **Offertory**

Robert J. Powell is an American composer, organist, and choir director who was the Director of Music and Organist at Christ Church (Episcopal) in Greenville, South Carolina from 1968 to 2003. He has composed in nearly all genres common to church music, including anthems, service music, hymn concertatos, organ music, music for handbell choir, and large-scale oratorios. His conservative, neo-Romantic musical style stems from his practical approach to composition. The text of this anthem recalls Jesus' fasting in the wilderness for forty days and nights and the temptations posed by Satan. Each stanza mentions the struggles of Jesus and concludes with a prayer—for strength to conquer sin, to learn to live, to abide in Christ, and, after this life, to attain "an Easter of unending joy." As such, it is appropriate for Ash Wednesday, the First Sunday in Lent, or later in Lent. The tune LAND OF REST is a delightful U.S.A. folk tune.