

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
MARCH 14, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

PRELUDE

Sonata in F Major, K. 332
II. Adagio

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
 (1756-1791)

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY)

Leader: As we enter into worship, let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!

People: **God has blessed us; let all the ends of the earth fear and exalt him!**

OPENING HYMN No. 660

God Is Here
 Chancel Choir

ABBOT'S LEIGH



1. God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer
 2. Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3. Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's
 4. Lord of all, of church and king-dom, in an age of
 praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea-sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul-pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt keep us faith - ful to the gos-pel;
 what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es - ty of
 Christ sus - tains us, as of old. Here the ser - vants of the
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -
 round us, all our var - ied skills and arts wait the
 preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech, here, in
 Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore what it
 ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive; we, who
 com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. So let us acknowledge our failure and disobedience, and return to the Lord with penitence and faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

Dear Heavenly Father, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to You. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts, so that we may witness to You in our world. Remind us to be who You would have us to be regardless of what we are doing, or who we are with. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (RESPONSIVELY)

Leader: Because the Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

SERMON

Seeing Jesus Lifted Up

Rev. Ross Carter



GIVING

3 WAYS TO GIVE

 TEXT
Text \$ amount to 336.489.4483

 ONLINE
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BENEDICTION

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WORSHIP NOTES**Prelude**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was the famous composer of the First Viennese School (Franz Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Ludwig van Beethoven) who was born in Salzburg, Austria into a musical family. He composed more than 600 works, many of which are acknowledged as pinnacles of symphonic, concertante, chamber, operatic, and choral music. His musical style at the beginning of his Vienna period is exemplified by the Sonata in F Major, K. 332, one of three composed for the piano in 1781-83 and published as a set in 1784. The second of three movements, the "Adagio" contains two themes. The first is vocal in character with elaborate ornamentation and an accompaniment, while the second has the texture of a string trio.

Opening Hymn

This hymn was commissioned in 1978 by University United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas for the closing service of an eight-month long festival centering around the themes of worship, music, and the arts. The text is by Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), a retired British Methodist pastor and renowned contemporary hymn writer. It is sung to the glorious and exuberant tune ABBOT'S LEIGH, written in 1941 by Cyril V. Taylor (1907-1991). Abbot's Leigh is a village near Bristol, England, where the composer was serving in the wartime headquarters of the Religious British Broadcasting Department of the BBC. It was printed on a leaflet by Oxford University Press and paired with the text "Glorious things of thee are spoken."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of my mother, Frances Allen, by Mary Ann Garrison.

Bible Study Opportunities: Join Pastor Ross on **Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m.** for a Bible study on the book of Luke and Pastor Patrick on **Thursday nights at 7 p.m.** for a Lenten Bible study on walking through the book of Ruth. Both studies meet via Zoom. Look for the Zoom links in Tuesday's *Front Street Happenings* email. If you would like to participate, but are unable to join us on Wednesday morning or Thursday evenings, these gatherings are recorded and posted on our website and available to view at a time that suits you.

Today is UMCOR Sunday Offering: UMCOR Sunday (formerly called "One Great Hour of Sharing") supports the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the denomination's humanitarian relief and development organization. This offering ensures

100% of gifts to UMCOR help those who need it most. The United Methodist Church can respond quickly through UMCOR with funds to address immediate needs and grants to support long-term recovery. This is only possible with your support. UMCOR focuses on disaster preparedness, recovery, and response as well as migration and sustainable development in both the United States and globally. Your gift to UMCOR is an example of extravagant grace. Please give generously by mailing a check to the church with "UMCOR Sunday" written in the memo line. Thank you!

United Methodist Women: Circle #2 is collecting donations for Peg's PJs. Peg's PJs is a nonprofit organization that provides pajamas, bed linens, underwear, and blankets to displaced children in Alamance County. Children's new pajamas, underwear (all sizes), sheets, pillowcases, blankets, and bedspreads are needed. Please place items in the blue bins located in the Welcome Center in front of the bulletin board. Porch drop offs or checks payable to Peg's PJs are accepted at 2017 Shirley Drive, Burlington. Questions? Call Kathy Roberson at 336-380-5664. **Tomorrow** is the last day to contribute.

Project AGAPE Collection: 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**.

March Mission Food Distribution: Join us on **Saturday, March 20** (9 a.m. - noon) to assist in the distribution of food to families and individuals in the community through a drive-thru line. This event will be physically distanced and gloves will be provided. Please wear a mask. Contact Marcy McAdams (marcy@frontstreetumc.org) to volunteer or for more information.

Palm Sunday: The church is providing palms for families to help you celebrate Palm Sunday from home. The palms will be available for pick up from the church office (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.) beginning **Wednesday, March 24 through Friday, March 26**. There are a limited number of palms, so first come, first serve.

Fill a Dozen Easter Eggs: Want to bring a little joy to our children this Easter? Fill one or two dozen eggs with candy, and the occasional \$1 bill (no coins please), and bring them to the church office by **March 26**. They will be hidden for the children to find at our Easter egg hunt on March 27. Thank you for your support.

Easter Egg Hunt: Bring your children and grandchildren for an egg hunt on **Saturday, March 27**. In order to keep the groups small, there will be two sessions: preschool age (10-10:30 a.m.) and elementary age (11-11:30 a.m.). Masks are required for anyone over

the age of five. Gather on the grassy area by the playground, and don't forget your basket! Looking forward to seeing you there! **(Rain date: April 3.)**

Sanctuary Flowers: The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one: **March 21 and April 11 and 18.** 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.