

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD
MARCH 21, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

PRELUDE

Contemplation on 'Wondrous Love'

Rebecca Groom te Velde
(b. 1956)

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

OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)

God of thundering glory and wondrous love, you lifted up Jesus Christ from the earth to draw all people to your holy name. Like grains of wheat that fall to the dust, teach us to die—and so to bear much fruit, giving our lives for the sake of the gospel, following and serving Christ Jesus forever, for it is in his name that we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Depth of Mercy

CANTERBURY

Aldersgate Praise Band

1. Depth of mer - cy! Can there be mer - cy
2. I have long with - stood his grace, long pro -
3. I my Mas - ter have de - nied, I a -
4. There for me the Sav - ior stands, shows his
5. Now in - cline me to re - pent, let me
still re - served for me? Can my God his
voked him to his face, would not heark - en
fresh have cru - ci - fied, oft pro - faned his
wounds and spreads his hands. God is love! I
now my sins la - ment, now my foul re -
wrath for - bear, me, the chief of sin - ners, spare?
to his calls, grieved him by a thou - sand falls.
hal - lowed name, put him to an o - pen shame.
know, I feel; Je - sus weeps and loves me still.
volt de - plore, weep, be - lieve, and sin no more.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are never without need of being reminded that we are ever in need of God's grace, and God is always more ready to give than we are to ask. Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and each other, that we might again be drawn into the unchanging reality of God's love for the world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

Merciful God, we confess that we love our lives as they are. We struggle with even the idea of change, and resist the newness of doing things differently. Deep down we know that the life we cling to is incomplete. Only you, Lord, can give us a life that is both full and true. And so, forgive us for holding onto the wrong things. Teach us instead by your Spirit to let go of our agendas and assumptions. Help us to let go of our self-righteousness and false notions of power. Give us the strength and courage to try new things. Encourage us—and even push us—to let go of ourselves so we can fully embrace you, O God. We pray these things in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (RESPONSIVELY)

Leader: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ; strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

Holy Spirit, in hearing the Scriptures read and proclaimed, renew our vision. Inspire wisdom in us as we behold the mystery of Jesus Christ in his life, suffering, death, and resurrection, so that we may know ever more deeply the grace by which abundant life is made possible. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel

has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

SERMON

“We wish to see Jesus”

Rev. Patrick Murphy



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

3 WAYS TO GIVE

TEXT
Text \$ amount to
336.489.4483

ONLINE
[www.frontstreetumc.org/
give](http://www.frontstreetumc.org/give)

MAIL
PO Box 2597
Burlington, NC 27216

OFFERTORY**Like as the Hart Desireth the Waterbrooks**
Chancel ChoirHerbert Howells
(1892-1983)

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks,
So longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God,
Yea, even for the living God.
When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night,
While they daily say unto me,
"Where is now thy God?"
-Psalm 42:1-3

BENEDICTION

Copyright Acknowledgements

All music is in the public domain or has been used with permission.

WORSHIP NOTES**Prelude**

Rebecca Groom te Velde is organist of First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, Oklahoma, and adjunct professor of music at Oklahoma State University. She earned degrees in organ performance from Seattle Pacific University and University of Western Ontario, also studying composition and church music. Her "Contemplation on 'Wondrous Love'" is scintillating in its juxtaposition of simple and compound meter. It contains three main sections in which the tune is clearly audible throughout. In the opening section, the tune first appears rhythmically and melodically altered and then in chorale form. In the second section, the tune is played in the pedals with flowing accompaniment in the hands. The third section features a return to the beginning of the first section.

Offertory

Herbert Howells was a British organist and composer who was deeply involved with church music from an early age. He was a student of Sir Herbert Brewer (1865-1928) at Gloucester Cathedral before attending the Royal College of Music, where he studied composition with Charles Wood (1866-1926) and counterpoint with Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924). He joined the faculty at the RCM in 1920, and continued teaching there through his 80s. "Like as the Hart Desireth the Waterbrooks" was written in January, 1941 and is the third of four anthems originally titled "In Time of War," but now simply known as "Four Anthems." These anthems were composed while London was under German air assault during World War II and many residents were confined to their homes or bomb shelters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.**)

Holy Week at Front Street:

Palm Sunday ♦ March 28

Recorded worship offered via YouTube and Facebook, as normal

Maundy Thursday ♦ April 1

Outside worship with Holy Communion @ 7 p.m.

Good Friday ♦ April 2

Outside worship at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday ♦ April 4

Sunrise Service: outside worship at 7:00 a.m. Come and celebrate the resurrection.

Worship: Aldersgate service at 8:45 a.m. and traditional worship service at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Note: the outside services will be located in the grassy area beside the playground and parking lot (Webb Ave.) You are encouraged to bring your own lawn chair for these services.

Flower Cross: On **Easter Sunday (April 4)**, you are invited to bring fresh flowers to place on the cross. This reminds us that through the cross and Christ's resurrection, we can have new life. The flower cross will be located on the grassy area beside the playground.

Sanctuary Flowers: The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one: **April 11 and 18 and May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.** 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.