

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
Second Sunday in Lent
Digital Traditional Service
February 28, 2021



The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Meditation

James Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN

#288

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

1. I sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise;
That formed the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.
2. I sing the goodness of the Lord
that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed
where'er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the skies.
3. There's not a plant or flower below
but makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God who made us to live in communion with you and with each other, we confess that too often our hearts and our spirits are as frozen as winter ice and snow. We cling to our fears, our prejudices, our guilt, and our self-doubts rather than letting your Spirit confront us, heal us, guide us, and strengthen us. Melt our winter hearts and fill our spirits with the freshness of your Word, embodied in your Son Jesus, so that we might be truly joyful, faithful, and effective disciples of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

SPECIAL MUSIC

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Robert E. Kreutz

Rebecca Erhardt, soprano

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Mark 1:9-15

Betsy Simpson

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

The Rev. Cynthia Leslie Simmons

“Proving Ground”

WE RESPOND

HYMN

When We Are Tested

O QUANTA QUALIA

1. When we are tested and wrestle alone,
Famished for bread when the word offers stone,
Nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
Food that sustains us by night and by day.
2. When in the desert we cry for relief,
Pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
Lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
Trusting your presence, our only true rest.

3. When we are tempted to barter our souls,
Trading the truth for the power to control,
Teach us to worship and praise only you,
Seeking your will in the work that we do.
4. When we have struggled and searched through the night,
Sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
Angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 led us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory 3. "Tranquillo" from Preludes and Voluntaries Set 2

Eric. H. Thiman

* Response - #592

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

* Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN

#420

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

1. God of grace and God of glory,
on Thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

2. Lo! the hosts of evil 'round us
scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us,
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

3. Cure Thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to Thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grand us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

4. Set our feet on lofty places;
gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grand us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee,
That we fail not them nor Thee!

5. Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grand us courage,
Serving Thee whom we adore,
Serving Thee whom we adore.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude No. 2, Op. 101

Charles V. Stanford