

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Morning Worship – 9:30 a. m.

March 14, 2021

Silent prayer for use in preparation for worship:

*Grant, O Lord God, that we may cleave to Thee without parting,
worship Thee without wearying, serve Thee without failing,
faithfully seek Thee, happily find Thee, for ever possess Thee,
the one and only God, blessed world without end, Amen.*

A prayer of Anselm, 1033 - 1109, Archbishop of Canterbury

PRELUDE *God So Loved the World* *arr. Eleanor Whitsett*
John Black, Organ; Alexandra Nichols, Piano

To God Be the Glory *arr. Mark Hayes*
John Black, Piano

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from the Book of Common Worship, c. 1946*)

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE; LET ALL THE EARTH KEEP SILENCE BEFORE HIM.

God is a spirit, and they who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

O COME, LET US WORSHIP AND BOW DOWN; LET US KNEEL BEFORE THE LORD, OUR MAKER.

***HYMN** *And Can It Be That I Should Gain*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*first silently, then in unison*):

LORD OUR GOD, WONDERFUL IN YOUR ETERNAL GLORY, YOU ARE THE HELP OF ALL WHO FLEE TO YOU, AND THE HOPE OF THOSE WHO CRY TO YOU. CLEANSE US FROM OUR SINS, SECRET AND OPEN, AND FROM EVERY THOUGHT DISPLEASING TO YOU. CLEANSE OUR HEARTS, OUR SOULS, OUR BODIES, SO THAT WITH PURITY AND CONFIDENCE IN YOUR PERFECT LOVE WE MAY, WITHOUT FEAR, MAKE OUR PRAYERS TO YOU THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, AMEN. *A prayer of Basil of Caesarea, 329-379*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

IN JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE FORGIVEN.

***GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.*

SPECIAL MUSIC *An Offering* *Dan Forrest*
Denise Mair, Soprano

PSALTER *Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22*

SCRIPTURE READINGS *Numbers 21:4-9*
John 3:14-21

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

***HYMN** *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

SERMON A GRACIOUS FACELIFT

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *adapted from Philippians 2:5-11*

CHRIST JESUS, THOUGH HE WAS BY VERY NATURE GOD, DID NOT CONSIDER EQUALITY WITH GOD A THING TO BE GRASPED, BUT EMPTIED HIMSELF BY TAKING THE FORM OF A SERVANT, BEING BORN IN HUMAN LIKENESS. AND BEING FOUND IN HUMAN FORM, HE HUMBLING HIMSELF AND BECAME OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS. THEREFORE GOD HAS HIGHLY EXALTED HIM AND GIVEN HIM THE NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, SO THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH, AND EVERY TONGUE CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER. AMEN.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

OFFERING

**Doxology*

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!*

**Prayer of Dedication*

***HYMN** *Lift High the Cross*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Toccata in d minor* *Gaston Béliet*

**(the people standing, as able)*

And Can It Be that I Should Gain

1. And can it be that I should gain an
 2. 'Tis mys - tery all: th'Im - mor - tal dies! Who
 3. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so
 4. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay, fast
 5. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread; Je -

in - terest in the Sav - ior's blood! Died he for
 can ex - plore his strange de - sign? In vain the
 free, so in - fi - nite his grace!), emp - tied him -
 bound in sin and na - ture's night; thine eye dif -
 sus, and all in him, is mine; a - live in

me? who caused his pain! For me? who him to
 first - born ser - aph tries to sound the depths of
 fused of all but love, and bled for Ad - am's
 him, a quick - ening ray; I woke, the dun - geon
 him, my liv - ing Head, and clothed in righ - teous -

death pur - sued? A - maz - ing love! How can it
 love di - vine. 'Tis mer - cy all! Let earth a -
 help - less race. 'Tis mer - cy all, im - mense and
 flamed with light; my chains fell off, my heart was
 ness di - vine, bold I ap - proach th'e - ter - nal

be that thou, my God, shouldst die for
 dore; let an - gel minds in - quire no
 free, for O my God, it found out
 free, I rose, went forth, and fol - lowed
 throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my

me? A - maz - ing love! How can it be
 more. 'Tis mer - cy all! Let earth a - dore;
 me! 'Tis mer - cy all, im - mense and free,
 thee. My chains fell off, my heart was free,
 own. Bold I ap - proach th'e - ter - nal throne,

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A - maz - ing love! | How can it be |
| 2. 'Tis mer - cy all! | Let earth a - dore; |
| 3. 'Tis mer - cy all, | im - mense and free, |
| 4. My chains fell off, | my heart was free, |
| 5. Bold I ap - proach | th'e - ter - nal throne, |

that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
 let an - gel minds in - quire no more.
 for O my God, it found out me!
 I rose, went forth, and fol - lowed thee.
 and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

that thou, my God,
 let an - gel minds
 for O my God,
 I rose, went forth,
 and claim the crown,

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!

LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO, WHOM HE HAS REDEEMED FROM TROUBLE

Those He gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

SOME BECAME FOOLS THROUGH THEIR SINFUL WAYS, AND BECAUSE OF THEIR INIQUITIES SUFFERED AFFLICTION;

They loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

THEN THEY CRIED TO THE LORD IN THEIR TROUBLE, AND HE DELIVERED THEM FROM THEIR DISTRESS.

He sent out His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.

LET THEM THANK THE LORD FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE, FOR HIS WONDROUS WORKS TO THE CHILDREN OF MAN!

And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of His deeds in songs of joy!

NUMBERS 21:4-9

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

JOHN 3:14-21

"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, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes into the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3

1. O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary
2. O Light that follow'st all my way, I yield my flick'ring
3. O Joy that seek-est me thro' pain, I can-not close my
4. O cross that lift-est up my head, I dare not ask to

soul in Thee. I give Thee back the life I owe, That
torch to Thee. My heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, That
heart to Thee. I trace the rain-bow thro' the rain, And
fly from thee. I lay in dust life's glo-ry dead, And

in Thine o - cean depths its flow May rich - er, full - er be.
in Thy sun-shine's blaze its day May bright - er, fair - er be.
feel the prom - ise is not vain That morn shall tear - less be.
from the ground there blos - soms red Life that shall end - less be.

TEXT: George Matheson
MUSIC: Albert L. Peace

ST. MARGARET
8.8.8.6.

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.

Lift High the Cross

I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself. John 12:32

Refrain in unison

Lift high the cross; the love of Christ pro-claim, Till

all the world a-dore His sa-cred name. Fine 7

Harmony optional

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2. Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on this glo - rious tree,
 4. Set up Thy throne, that earth's de - spair may cease
 5. For Thy blest cross which doth for all a - tone,

Our King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
 As Thou hast prom - ised, draw men un - to Thee.
 Be - neath the shad - ow of its heal - ing peace.
 Cre - a - tion's prais - es rise be - fore Thy throne. D. C. al Fine

TEXT: George W. Kitchin and Michael R. Newbolt
 MUSIC: Sydney H. Nicholson

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CRUCIFER
 10.10.10.10.

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN
 805 MAIN AVENUE
 WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02886

MARCH 14, 2021

WELCOME to all who are worshiping in our sanctuary today; welcome, too, to all worshiping with us online! As done the past fifty-one weeks, the service will be archived and posted @ twenty minutes after the benediction and will be available for viewing and/or downloading for at least one week. A special word of welcome to any and all visiting with us in person or online this morning ... welcome to our fellowship!

FLOWERS TODAY are given to the glory of God by Wayne A. Meunier and dedicated to those who have served and to those who continue to serve looking for the resurrection and life in His kingdom to come.

THE 2021 FLOWER CALENDAR: The following dates are available to honor a loved one, mark a special occasion, or commemorate the memory of a dearly departed relative or friend: *August 15, 22, 29 (one), September 5 (both), September 19 (one), October 17 (both).* \$15 per bouquet. Please call (737-1230). Thank you!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL meets in the church parlor and online using Zoom. We start at 8:00 AM for an optional social time, and then class is 8:30-9:15 when we read and discuss the lectionary readings. Email Kevin Golde (kevingolde@gmail.com) to receive the weekly readings and the Zoom link.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS) -- The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) works with low-income communities to overcome oppression and injustice. Projects focus on advocacy, youth-led initiatives, skill development, farming, worker rights, immigration & refugee issues and capacity building (*national and international projects include: North Flint Food Market Coop, Flint, MI, LeRoy Living Well Senior Center, LeRoy, IL, Colonense Intl. Performing Arts Foundation, Panama, and Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America, Guatemala City, Guatemala*). Please use the OGHS offering envelopes at the Sanctuary entryways, in your box of offering envelopes or the OGHS online account for your donation. Thank you from your Mission Committee!

LENTEN HYMN SING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 7:30 P.M. Join us on the church's Facebook page for an hour of singing, hymn stories, and a Lenten devotional from Pastor Clark. Get your Lenten and Easter hymn requests ready, and warm up your singing voice as we bring back this favorite time of digital fellowship!

EASTER CAROLING SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1:30 P.M.: We will convene in the church parking lot (immediately following the children's **Easter Egg Hunt!**) to caravan around Rhode Island for an afternoon of hymn singing to members of our congregation who are unable to worship with us in person at this time. Music packets and an itinerary will be provided upon arrival; digital copies are available upon request by emailing music@gccp.org or calling John Black at (401) 543-5219. Join us for an uplifting afternoon as we offer the joy of the Easter season to housebound members of our church family!



**TOGETHER, WE CAN
HELP END HUNGER
AND POVERTY.**

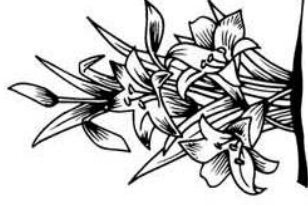


TODAY is the fourth Sunday of our annual Lenten coin drive to benefit **Heifer International**. All funds raised through this drive enable the Sunday School to purchase domestic animals for impoverished families worldwide. The purchase of these animals will help feed families as well as generate income for them through the sale of eggs, cheese, milk, wool and other animal byproducts. Last year the pandemic restrictions discontinuing in-person worship commenced the third week of Lent, but several of you continued to direct special contributions to compensate the anticipated loss of coin income. Some brought coins to the office, others wrote checks for the value of the coins they had, and still others simply made designated donations ... and through your generosity we received just about the exact amount as in 2018 (*and just a bit less than the record amount received 2019*). Under current protocols we will NOT have the children collecting these coins during the service of worship as in years past, but we will continue this annual appeal (*which I think began seventeen years ago ... I'm still checking to verify that!*). You may leave your bagged coins in the offering plate, bring them to the office, or designate a donation by check and send it to the church office.

TODAY-- QUARTERS, MARCH 21 – DOLLARS.

Easter Flower Form

We would appreciate your participation in the beautification of our sanctuary for Easter by donating or lending Easter plants for our chancel. You may purchase your own plant and make arrangements for the delivery to the church by **APRIL 3** or you may order through the church. Please indicate your wishes on this form and return it to the church office no later than Sunday, **MARCH 21!**



Please check the appropriate choices below:

_____ I will lend a plant and pick it up after the 9:30 service on Easter Sunday.

_____ I will donate a plant which is to be given to a shut-in.

_____ I will bring my plant to church by Saturday, **APRIL 3**, between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

_____ I will order _____ plants = _____ and have enclosed payment with the appropriate plants checked off below.

_____ Lily plant(s) \$10.00 _____ Tulip plant(s) \$8.00 _____ Daffodil plant(s) \$8.00
 _____ Hydrangeas (pink) \$20.00 _____ Hydrangeas (blue) \$20.00

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Telephone: _____

The deadline for ordering is: **SUNDAY, MARCH 21**