

## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

March 20, 2022

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

### *God's People Gather*

The Chimes

*The chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, who calls us together, has come among us in Christ Jesus our Lord, and has given us the Holy Spirit.*

The Gathering

Courtney Stamey

The Prelude

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

arr. Ron Boud

The Lenten Refrain

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

(Verse 3)

And through these days of penitence and through your Passiontide,  
Forevermore in life and death, O Christ with us abide.

The Summons

Courtney Stamey

We come to this place to worship.

**Our reconciling God is here with us.**

Making all things new, all things whole, all things healed, all things restored.

**Praise be to God.**

### *To Praise the Living God*

\*The Processional Hymn 698 For the Healing of the Nations  
(Verses 1, 4)

CWM RHONDDA

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;  
For a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,  
Help us rise and pledge our word.

You, Creator, God, have written Your great name on humankind;  
For our growing in Your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,  
That by our response and service earth its destiny may find,  
Earth its destiny may find.

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\*The Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Beth Russo

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.

### *To Listen for God's Word*

The Witness of Scripture: Philemon

Beth Russo

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\*The Hymn 440

Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

GIFT OF LOVE

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

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The Confession of Sin

Susan Meadors

Across the barriers that divide race from race:

**reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.**

Across the barriers that divide rich from poor:

**reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.**

Across the barriers that divide people of different cultures:

**reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.**

Across the barriers that divide Christians:

**reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.**

Across the barriers that divide men and women, young and old:

**reconcile us, by your cross.**

**Confront us, O Christ, with the hidden prejudices and fears  
that deny and betray our prayers.**

**Enable us to see the causes of strife,**

**remove from us all senses of superiority.**

**Teach us to grow in unity with all God's children. Amen.**

-From *The Worship Sourcebook*

The Assurance of Pardon

Beloved children of God, in Jesus Christ we are reconciled. **Thanks be to God.**

The Responsive Reading: Ephesians 2: 14-22

Susan Meadors

For he is our peace;

**In his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.**

He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

**So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.**

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

**In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.**

The Children's Time

Courtney Stamey

The Pastoral Prayer

Susan Meadors

The Hymn 389

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying CHILDREN PRAYING  
(Two Times)

Lord, listen to Your children praying, Lord, send Your Spirit in this place,  
Lord listen to Your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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\*The Witness of the Gospels: Matthew 5:21-24

Beth Russo

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\*The 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.

The Sermon

Reconciliation

Courtney Stamey

### ***And to Respond in Faith***

\*The Hymn of Response 272 They'll Know We Are Christians  
(Verses 1, 3)

ST. BRENDAN'S

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

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The Affirmation of Christian Decision

**We affirm you in your Christian decision and celebrate your place in the family of God. We accept our responsibility to help you grow into the fullness of Christ. We offer ourselves to be your family, to surround you with God's kind of love. Amen**

\*The Offering Prayer

Toney Keeler

**For all you have given us, for all you have done for us, for all this good earth, for all you will do with what we have given, and for all the graces you extend, we thank you, Lord. Amen.**

\*Doxology

HAMBURG

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

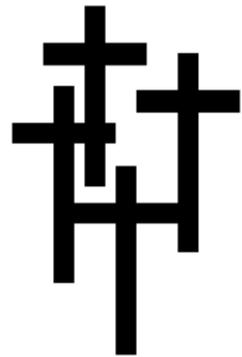
\*Blessing and Sending

Courtney Stamey

\*Please stand as you are able.

Great God, who has told us  
“Vengeance is mine,”  
save us from ourselves,  
save us from the vengeance in our hearts  
and the acid in our souls.  
Save us from our desire to hurt as we have been hurt,  
to punish as we have been punished,  
to terrorize as we have been terrorized.  
Give us the strength it takes  
to listen rather than to judge,  
to trust rather than to fear,  
to try again and again  
to make peace even when peace eludes us.

*Joan Chittister, OSB*



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