

GATHERING

God of heaven and earth, give me ears to hear your glory in its many forms. Give me eyes to see your glory in its many guises. Throughout this day, I, too, will proclaim your glory, your grace, and your love so that I may be a part of the chorus of praise that stretches to the ends of the earth. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Kyrie

H. Willan

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy upon us.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

The message of the cross sounds foolish to the world;

But to us it is the power of God!

We proclaim the scandal of Christ crucified.

The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than our strength.

*** HYMN 213**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Rathbun

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, how fickle we are; we sin against you without even knowing it. Clear us, we pray, of any unknown sin, and save us from willfully ignoring your way. Let your commandments rule and guide us. Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything except you; keep us faithful. Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness, rather than words that belittle or destroy. Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness. Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power, for you are the God who made us, led us out of slavery, and brought us into the community of faith. Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

Lord, Have Mercy (Hymn 551)

Land of Rest

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy upon us.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19 (NRSV)

OT pg. 498

ANTHEM

I Danced in the Morning

J. Ferguson

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth; at Bethlehem I had my birth. Dance then wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he. I danced for the scribe and the pharisee, but they would not dance, and they would not follow me; I danced for the fisherman, for James and John; they came with me and the dance went on. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame: the holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and left me there on the cross to die. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black, it's hard to dance with the devil on your back. They buried my body and they thought I'd gone. But! I am the dance and I still go on. They cut me down and I leapt up high: I am the life that will never, never die; I'll live in you if you live in me. I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Vicki Sumner

(Children will remain seated with their families for the Time for Young Disciples.)

* **HYMN 61**

Your Law, O Lord, Is Perfect

Christus, Der Ist Mein Leben

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 166

Thanks be to God.**SERMON**

Inviting Ridicule

Rev. Mark Hults

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**RESPONDING*** **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.* **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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING* **HYMN 223**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hamburg

* **BENEDICTION*** **POSTLUDE**

Ave Verum Corpus

J. Guthrie

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Scott Stuart, Vicki Sumner

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

VIDEO: Kaylee Bleeker, Troy Bleeker, John Rayl

SOUND: Dink Henderson

QUINTET: Alanna Parfait, soprano; Megan Sabella, alto; Elijah Adongo, tenor; Colin Hall, Simon Lynch bass

EUPHONIUM: Thomas Chamberlain

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gracelynn Christine Fosser.

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT: We extend our sympathy and offer the prayers of our congregation to Barbara Probert and her family upon the passing of her daughter-in-law, Debby, who joined the Church Triumphant on March 3, 2021.

JESUS CHRIST: PASSION AND DEATH

In the Cross of Christ I Glory 213

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the
5 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing

o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, from the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that knows no
o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred

sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.
sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

Like Isaac Watts's "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (nos. 223, 224), this hymn is a reflection on Galatians 6:14, but this text is more abstract and devotes no attention to the person hanging on the cross. The tune is named for a soloist in the composer's Connecticut choir.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 19 (NRSV)

To the leader. A Psalm of David. ¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. ² Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³ There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴ yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. ⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹² But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. ¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

61 Your Law, O Lord, Is Perfect
(Psalm 19)

1 Your law, O Lord, is per - fect, the sim - ple mak - ing wise;
2 More to be sought than rich - es, your words are my soul's wealth;
3 My strength and my re - deem - er, law - giv - er and true light,

how pure are your com - mand - ments, en - light - en - ing my eyes!
their taste is sweet like hon - ey, im - part - ing life and health.
my words and med - i - ta - tions make wor - thy in your sight.

Celebrating God's law in this paraphrase of the second half of Psalm 19 may seem odd if "law" is thought of simply as a list of things not to do. But in Jewish understanding, the law is seen as a gift, because it provides the signposts that show how to live as the people of God.

TEXT: Keith Landis, 1987
MUSIC: Melchior Vulpus, 1609
Text © 1994 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN
7.6.7.6

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

JESUS CHRIST: PASSION AND DEATH

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 223

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watts's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.

GLORIFY GOD

40 Days of Food: How much food is in your car trunk ready to deliver to the church parking lot, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Palm Sunday? Hopefully you have the nonperishable food stacked so it is not rolling around as you drive. Or maybe you are planning to give online to our Virtual Food Drive at yougivegoods.com/40daysoffood2021 and the food goes directly to GCM. During the days of Lent, remember the message in Matthew 25, "Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee? Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Children's Worship Guides: Print and Digital versions of our children's worship guides are available for your use as you participate in worship. Links to the digital version can be found in the Weekly Invite emails from the church. We encourage your family to discuss worship together - even if you don't use the guide.

Weekly Dose of Digital Discipleship: Stay informed and connected to the ministries of our church through this Sunday morning email which provides weekly devotionals, reflective readings, mission opportunities, and other helpful information for ways to stay connected during this time of social distancing as an act of loving our neighbors. Want to join the email list? Please contact Vicki Sumner at children@1stpc.org.

Connections: During this Lenten season we invite our children and youth to walk through Holy Week with us on our journey to Easter. Last week we enjoyed tasting a traditional Seder Passover Meal. This week, our K-12th graders will read the Seven Last Words of Christ as we learn about Good Friday and our 3-year-old through VPK students will continue learning about the season of Lent. *Connections* will be led by Ms. Vicki, Mr. Scott, Dr. Coffey, Mr. Mitch. Join us to see what it's all about!

Youth Opportunities to Assist in Worship: Our sixth through twelfth grade students are invited to participate in serving as (in-person) lay readers during our 11 a.m. worship services. If this is something your youth is interested in doing, please contact Vicki Sumner at children@1stpc.org.

College Trajectory Bible Study is meeting on Zoom. For more information, please email Scott Stuart at college@1stpc.org.

Young Adult Ministry: We are meeting regularly via Zoom - currently on Tuesday nights from 8:30-9:30 p.m. For more information on Young Adult Ministry or specifically on these meetings, please email Fred Lundy at youngadult@1stpc.org.

The Gordon Hoover Class is Zooming on Sundays at a new time of 9:00 a.m. Connect by phone or computer. Everyone is welcome! This Sunday is Luke 10. If you are interested in joining, please contact Perry Foote at palbertfoote@gmail.com.

MEET HUMAN NEEDS

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast, Melda Bassett, Jayne Fox, Emily Hoyer, Elizabeth Miller, and Theral Moore. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Trinity Gilkey, Brian Hill, Matt Roland, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez, Joe Mueller, and Paul Samala. Essential worker: Bill Clark.

Support our Mission and Ministries: Every gift makes a difference and directly funds our mission. Online contributions can be made through your computer or smart phone. Go to 1stpc.org and click the red Pushpay icon. Give to the General Budget or specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba at business@1stpc.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued generosity to our church, especially during the pandemic.

FPC Weekly Figures

Weekly Budget Requirement	\$34,418
Received Week of 2/28/2021	\$18,467
Weekly Offering	\$7,640
Designated Offerings	\$400
Other Revenue	\$350
Preschool	\$10,077
YTD Budget Requirements	\$1,204,630
YTD Received	\$871,954
YTD Expenses	\$953,822

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Is there something you would like to announce in the Bugle or Bulletin? Contact communications@1stpc.org