

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

MARCH 22, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Beautiful Savior, Fairest Lord Jesus

Dale Wood

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is in the water that restores our soul.

And God is in the night when we lose our way.

God is in today and tomorrow, raising up leaders, prophets and dreamers.

And God is in the wilderness with us—every step of the way.

So with confidence we declare—

If God is in those spaces, then God is surely here.

Let us worship the God of creation.

Let us worship the God of wilderness spaces.

HYMN 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;

And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus of Nazareth, There are stories of you healing the blind all over scripture. You were constantly opening people's eyes. So today we confess that we often choose to keep our eyes closed.

We turn away from injustice in our world, worried you might ask us to work for change. We close our eyes to our privilege, because the truth is uncomfortable. We avoid eye contact with those who are suffering to avoid identifying with their pain. Forgive us for failing to be your Church in the world. Guide us from the depths of our wilderness into your light.

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

CHORAL PETITION

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23

MUSICAL OFFERING

We Shall Walk through the Valley in Peace

Arr. Moses Hogan

CHILDREN'S LESSON

GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-41

SERMON

The Wilderness is a Place of Disruption Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a wilderness God—

Who breathed life into dust, turned seeds into flowers, and flooded the sky with stars.

We believe in a wilderness God—

Who went hungry in the desert, walked barefoot on the water, and taught from the mountainside.

We believe in a wilderness God—

Whose love could be described as nothing short of wild.

So with confidence and hope, we long to follow our wilderness God who walks with people on their darkest nights,

Who sings hope into places of grief, isolation, and suffering, and who exists in the form of untamed joy, relentless love, and impossible hope. Step by step, may it be so. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory Response *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*
**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.**

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN 802

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ST. COLUMBIA

**The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

**Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds, Is like to that above.**

LENTEN THEME AND LITURGY

This Lenten season we are following the theme, “Wilderness” from A Sanctified Art, LLC. A Sanctified Art believes God speaks to us through many mediums and that creativity is an integral part of worship. They create curriculum and worship resources, including the Lenten Devotionals found in the Narthex. The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation of Faith are adapted from liturgy written by Sarah Are of A Sanctified Art.