

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

MARCH 29, 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Based on the hymn tune MORCAMBE

Frederick Atkinson
Setting by Roy Brunner

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have been in the wilderness—

Discerning and working, seeking and dreaming.

We have been in the wilderness—

Grieving and wondering, praying and hoping.

We have been in the wilderness—

Longing and running, creating and waiting.

We have been in the wilderness, but we have not been alone; for God walks with us,
every step of the way.

So let us worship the God of our darkest nights and our brightest days.

Let us worship Holy God.

HYMN 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

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.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his 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.

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, grant us courage,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.

Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, You invite us to plant a garden of love and harmony, but we grow weeds of prejudice and hatred. You invite us to sow joy and gratitude, but we scatter seeds of greed and envy. You call us to tend the soil of fear and denial, but instead we close our eyes and let the earth suffer. Forgive us. You invited us to plant a garden, and we lost ourselves in the wilderness. Clear our hearts. Breathe life into these weary bones and grant us a fresh start. Gratefully we pray...

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

CHORAL PETITION

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy

WAYFARING STRANGER

**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

Charlton Allen

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

MUSICAL OFFERING

What Wondrous Love

Southern Harmony
arr. Robert Scholz

CHILDREN'S LESSON

GOSPEL READING

John 11:1-45

SERMON

The Wilderness is a Place of New Life— Resilient Life Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

HYMN 802

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

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*

TALLIS' CANON

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

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.