



Order of Worship

Prelude

"Nearer, My God, to Thee"
(arr. by Diane Bish)

Gary O'Neal, Organist
Lowell Mason

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place. Here may the seeker find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful be comforted. Here may the weary find rest and the strong be renewed. Here may the aged find consolation, and the young be inspired, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome and Greeting One Another

Pastor

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Liturgist

From water to wilderness:

**God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

On stone and in hearts:

**God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

**God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,
for where he is, we would be also.

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

Prayer of Adoration

Liturgist

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.

Affirmation of Faith (Unison)**The Apostles' Creed**

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; 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 Confession (Unison)

Pastor

Merciful God, we confess that we have not been sincere Christians. We claim to follow Jesus but have not taken his path of sacrificial love. We profess to be disciples, but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship. We affirm the virtue of self-denial, but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for sincere repentance through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(In silence confess your personal sins to God.)

Kyrie Eleison

Pastor

**You are the Lord, giver of mercy.
You are the Christ, giver of mercy.
You are the Lord, giver of mercy.**

Declaration of Pardon

Pastor

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

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.

To share your joys and concerns, please contact the church office.

The Offering

A public offering to God is one of the oldest forms of worship. Although we give in varied ways through the week, our participation in the Sunday Offering is a witness to God and to the world of our love and commitment. Since we are unable to meet in person at this time, you can mail your gifts to the church office or give online.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Doxology No. 606

**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. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor

Special Music

“Lead Me, Lord”
(arr. by Robert W. Thygerson)

Susie Miller, Piano
Samuel S. Wesley

Lessons from Scripture

Prayer of Illumination

Liturgist

First Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Liturgist

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Mark 8:31-38

Pastor

³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

This is the Gospel of Christ!

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

“Carry On”

Rev. Rick Brooks

Charge and Benediction

Pastor

Postlude

Organist

Assisting in worship today is Leigh Taylor, liturgist.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28th

Monday	6:00	Zoom Worship/Music Com. Mtg.
Wednesday	4:00	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:00	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:00	Zoom Fellowship Com. Mtg.
Thursday	6:00	Zoom Yoga Class

Music for this morning’s worship was recorded live.

Rev. Rick Brooks, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education
Mr. Gary O’Neal, Director of Music/Organist
Ms. Kat Hutchings, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Marilyn Jackson, Clerk of Session

Audio and video production by Gary O’Neal, Bill Grayson, and Jeff Taylor.



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