



**CENTRAL**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

March 21, 2021

9 & 10:45am

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent



Amplification devices are available from ushers at the rear of the sanctuary.

# Order of Worship

Liturgist is Rev. Charles Godwin

**Themes and Keywords:** darkness, questioning, sorrow, trust, prayer

PRELUDE

Prelude in C-Sharp Major with Fairest Lord Jesus

J.S. Bach

STANDING (IF ABLE)

**GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP**

from John 1:29; Philippians 2:8-9; Revelation 5:13

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Suffering Servant,  
**the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**Therefore, God has highly exalted him.**

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!

**Amen!**

**WE PRAISE GOD**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

Text: Joachim Neander, 1680; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN; *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth,  
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee;  
4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal - va - tion!  
shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth!  
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.  
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him.



All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
Hast thou not seen how all thy long - ings have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do, if with his love he be - friend thee.  
Let the A - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly fore' - er we a - dore him.

## WE PRAY FOR GOD TO HELP US WORSHIP

Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed!**  
**He died for us that we might live for him.**

*SEATED*

## GOD CALLS US TO CONFESS OUR SIN

from Hebrews 2:17; 7:25; 4:16

Christ was made like us in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Suffering Servant, you endured the dark night of the soul  
by crying out to the Father with trust and commitment in the midst of doubt.  
**But we are prone to flee from suffering  
in the midst of the darkness of trial and sorrow.  
We find patient trust unbearable  
when sin seems to offer easy comfort.  
We are prone to doubt that you will protect and sustain us,  
and we fear that affliction will destroy us.  
We turn away from you in the darkness of despair  
and miss the grace of hope and strength  
that you give when we pour out our pain in prayers of lament to you.  
Lord, have mercy on us.**

(silent prayers of confession)

Gracious Father, lead our faltering hearts back to you and renew in us the hope of your salvation in Christ so that we will run to you with every question, fear, and sorrow. Through the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit, fill us with your steadfast love so that we can stand firm in patient trust and endure the darkness of doubt and trial with your abundant peace and strength.

STANDING (IF ABLE)

# GOD DECLARES OUR FORGIVENESS

from Hebrews 5:8-9; 12:2

Although Jesus was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation. Look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

For all who have turned from sin in sorrow and look to God for mercy, this is God's gift. In Jesus Christ, God loves you, God forgives you, God accepts you, and God rejoices over you as beloved daughters and sons.

**Hallelujah, Amen!**

## WE PRAISE GOD

*Children ages 3 - 1st grade are invited to Children's Church during the song and will return during the offering.*

### Amazing Grace

Text: John Newton  
Tune: Virginia Harmony, 1831

1. A - ma - zing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears re - lieved;  
 3. The Lord has pro - mised good to me; His word my hope se - cures.  
 4. Through ma - ny dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;  
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing read - y sun:

I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind but now I see.  
 How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear, The hour I first be lieved.  
 He will my shield and por - tion be, As long as life en - dures.  
 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far: and grace will lead me home.  
 We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first be gun.

## GOD INSTRUCTS US IN SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 22:39-46

<sup>39</sup> And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." <sup>41</sup> And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." <sup>43</sup> And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. <sup>44</sup> And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. <sup>45</sup> And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "**Why are you sleeping?** Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

## GOD INSTRUCTS US IN PREACHING

Sermon Notes:

"Why are you sleeping?"  
Rev. Dr. Clay Smith

## WE OFFER OURSELVES IN GIFTS AND SONG

*If you prefer to give electronically, you can give by texting CENTRALPRES to 77977,  
or visit [www.centralpres.com/give](http://www.centralpres.com/give).*

### **He Will Hold Me Fast**

Vocal Ensemble

Text: vv. 1-2, Ada Habershon, vs. 3, Matt Merker

Tune: Matt Merker, 2013

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When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast.  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path,  
For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast.

[CHORUS]

*He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast,  
For my Savior loves me so. He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast.  
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost, His promises shall last.  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. CHORUS

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast.  
Justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast.  
'till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last! CHORUS

STANDING (IF ABLE)

## WE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

(prayers for the church and the world)

**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.**

SEATED

## GOD FEEDS US AT HIS TABLE

Central Presbyterian welcomes all Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel to receive Holy Communion with us. If you are not ready to receive communion, we invite you to meditate on one of the prayers below.

Is your child interested in receiving communion for the first time? We'd like to help with that process. Contact Karen Brown (kbrown@centralpres.com) for more information or to get started!

### Prayer for those searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Help me to be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

### Prayer of new belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared believe, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

STANDING (IF ABLE)

## WE PRAISE GOD

### O Great God

Text and Tune: Bob Kauflin, 2006  
© 2006 Sovereign Grace Praise

1. O great God of high-est heav'n, oc - cu - py my low - ly heart. Own it all and reign su - preme;  
 2. I was blind-ed by my sin, had no ears to hear your voice, did not know your love with - in,  
 3. Help me now to live a life that's de - pen - dent on your grace. Keep my heart and guard my soul

con - quer ev - ery re - bel pow'r. Let no vice or sin re - main that re - sists your ho - ly war.  
 had no taste for heav'n's joys. Then your Spir - it gave me life, o - pened up your word to me  
 from the e - vils that I face. You are worth - y to be praised with my ev - ery thought and deed.

You have loved and pur - chased me; make me yours for - ev - er - more.  
 through the gos - pel of your Son, gave me end - less hope and peace.  
 O great God of high - est heav'n, glo - ri - fy your name through me.

# GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US OUT

And all God's people said...  
**Hallelujah! Amen.**

## Lenten Doxology

Text: from *This Is My Father's World*,  
Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901  
Tune: Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915



This is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get that though the wrong seems  
oft so strong, God is the ru - ler yet. This is my Fa-ther's world: the bat-tle is not  
done. Je - sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, And earth and heav'n be one.

## POSTLUDE

## 'Little Fugue' in G Minor BWV 578

J.S. Bach

**Musicians:** *Vocal Ensemble:* Ceci Bartels, Anice Etz, Marjorie Klein, Tina Holland, Charles Godwin, Brent Reed, George Klemm, Paul Reising; Cathy Benton, *piano*; Chris Sasse, *violin*; Carl Sasse, *guitar*; Matthew Mazzoni (director) *organ and piano*

At Central, we believe in and rely upon the power of prayer. If you have a specific need or concern for which you would like prayer, contact us at [prayer@centralpres.com](mailto:prayer@centralpres.com) or visit [www.centralpres.com/prayer](http://www.centralpres.com/prayer).

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